7 SEEDS

Chapter 87

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FCα FLOWER COMICS α
flowersフラワーコミックスアルファ

7SEEDS セブンシーズ 17

田村由美

Yumi Tamura

7SEEDS 17 田村由美

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●作品紹介

★「7SEEDS」――。それは、隕石の衝突による人類滅亡を阻止するために政府が秘密裏に進めていた、種の保存計画。生き残るために特殊訓練を受けた夏のAチームと、落ちこぼれのBチームがついに合流してしまった今、そこにあるのは対立か、共闘か、それとも…!? 本当の試練が始まる――!!

＊ Flowers Flower Comics α ＊
Tamura Yumi
田村由美
7SEEDS
セブンシーズ
17

TEAM SUMMER B

TENDO MATSURI

KUSAKARI HOTARU

YAMORI CHIMAKI

TEAM SUMMER B

ASAI SEMIMARU

A SPOILT FOULMOUTHED PUNK WHO IS ALWAYS PICKING ON NATSU.

TEAM SUMMER B

SAOTOME BOTAN

ONCE A POLICE OFFICER, NOW SUMMER B'S GUIDE. AS THE BIG-SISTER TYPE, SHE'S SOMEONE YOU CAN RELY ON.

TEAM SUMMER B

IWASHIMIZU NATSU

AN AWFULLY SHY MEEK GIRL WHO IS TOO WEAK TO VOICE HER OWN OPINIONS.

TEAM SUMMER B

AOTA ARASHI

A YOUNG MAN WITH A STRONG SENSE OF JUSTICE. HE IS IN A RELATION SHIP WITH HANA OF TEAM SPRING.

TEAM SUMMER A

ANGO

LEADER OF TEAM SUMMER A. FEELS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DEATH OF HIS FRIEND.

TEAM SUMMER A

RYO

HIS COOL INTELLIGENCE AND ABILITY TO TAKE ACTION MAKES HIM THE SHADOW KING OF TEAM SUMMER A.

TER CHARACTER CHARACTER CHARACTER CHARACTER CHARA

flowers フラワーコミックスα

7 SEEDS (セブンシーズ) 17

ORY STORY STORY STORY STORY STORY STORY STORY

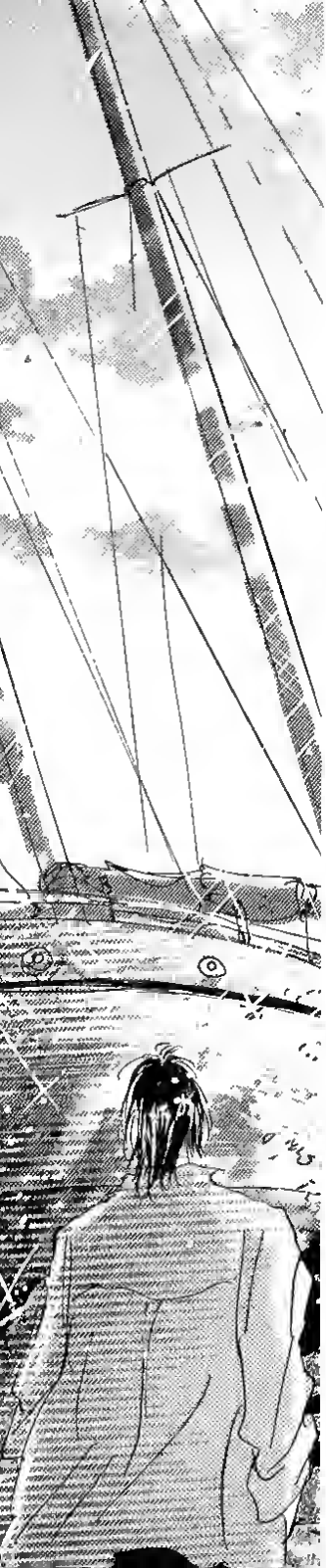
AFTER FACING MANY COMPLICATIONS, HANA'S GROUP OF TEAM SPRING, AUTUMN AND WINTER JOIN UP WITH TEAM SUMMER A TO FORM A COMMUNITY. ONE DAY, THE TRUTH CONCERNING HANA'S FATHER, WHO HAD PLAYED A PART IN KILLING SUMMER A'S COMPANIONS, IS REVEALED. WHEN ANGO LEARNS THIS, HE BEGINS DIRECTING A VIOLENT HATRED TOWARDS HANA. HANA SOON GOES MISSING AFTER BEING SUCKED INTO AN UNDERGROUND WATER VEIN WHILE SEARCHING FOR WATER. DUE TO THIS INCIDENT, ANGO AND RYO ARE BANISHED FROM THEIR OWN COMMUNITY.

WHILE AIMLESSLY WANDERING THE WILDERNESS, ANGO AND RYO STUMBLE UPON THE PEACEFUL LIFESTYLE OF TEAM SUMMER B. THE TWO, WHO UNWITTINGLY REVEALED THEMSELVES TO SUMMER B, HAVE NOW BEGUN TO COOLLY OBSERVE THEIR NEW COMPANIONS, HOWEVER...

IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE, A GIANT METEORITE HAS COLLIDED WITH EARTH. ALL LIVING ORGANISMS, INCLUDING MANKIND, HAVE BEEN WIPED OFF THE FACE OF THE PLANET.

THE GOVERNMENT, WHO HAD FORESEEN THIS OUTCOME, TOOK MEASURES TO COUNTER THE WORST-CASE SCENARIO. IN PARTICULAR WAS PROJECT "7 SEEDS", IN WHICH FIVE SETS OF SEVEN GIFTED YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN WERE CAREFULLY SELECTED AND PLACED INTO TEAMS. EACH PARTICIPANT WAS THEN PUT UNDER CRYOGENIC SLEEP IN HOPES OF PRESERVING THE CONTINUED EXISTENCE OF MANKIND.

WHEN THOSE MEN AND WOMEN AWOKE, THEY FOUND THEMSELVES SUDDENLY THRUST INTO A CRUEL WORLD. WHILE DEEPLY AND GRIEVED OVER FOREVER LOSING THEIR LOVED ONES, THEY SOUGHT TO FIND WAYS TO SURVIVE.



7SEEDS (セブンシーズ)

17

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○ *Flowers Flower Comics α* ○

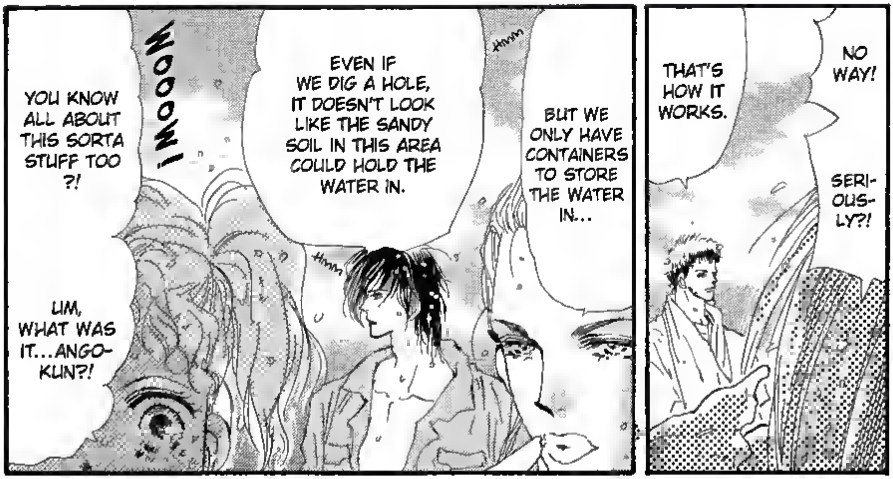
MINOR HEAT
CHAPTER 2

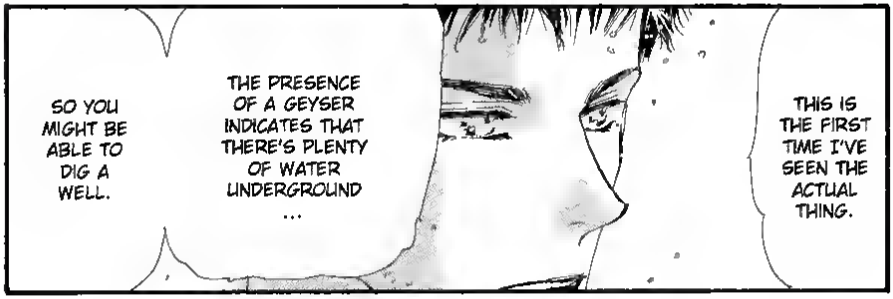
[—SINDBAD OF THE BEACH—]

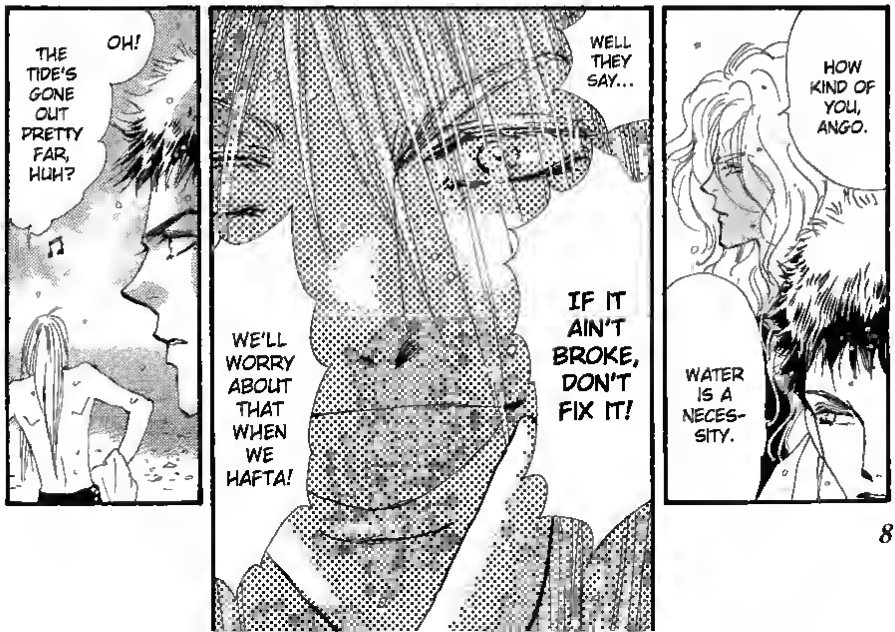
NOTE- Named after Pink Lady's fourth single, "Nagisa no Sindbad", which was the best-selling single of 1977.

THEIR GUIDE ...
BOTAN, IS THE ONLY DISCIPLINED ONE.
HER MUSCLES ARE WELL-DEFINED ...
AND SHE TAKES NOTE OF HER SURROUND-INGS.
THEN ...
THERE'S ARASHI ...
HE APPEARS TO HAVE HIGH ATHLETIC ABILITY.
THE REST ...
ARE SUBPAR.
ESPECIALLY NATSU.
IS IT INTEN-TIONAL ?
ARE THEY TESTING US?

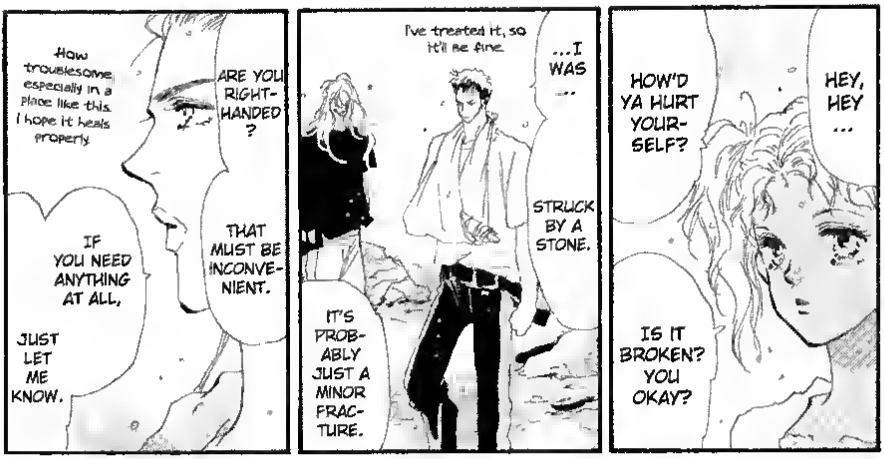
Ew, it feels like I wet my pants!
AHH, THAT WAS REFRESHING.
HOW WAS IT?
SURPRISING ISN'T IT?
HAVE YOU BEEN STORING THE WATER ?
YOU SHOULD STORE THE WATER IN ADVANCE.
IT MAY BLOW FOR NOW, BUT THERE WILL BE CESSATIONS IN ITS ACTIVITY.
GEYSERS ARE NOT ALWAYS ACTIVE.
HUH?

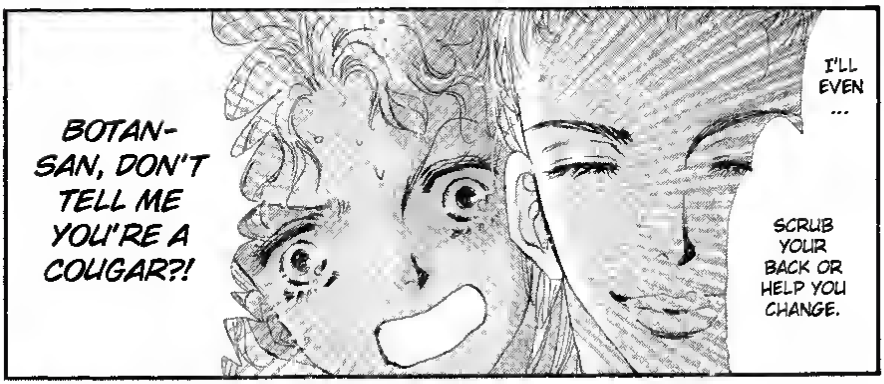

NO WAY!
SERI-OUS-LY?!
THAT'S HOW IT WORKS.
Hmm
BUT WE ONLY HAVE CONTAINERS TO STORE THE WATER IN...
EVEN IF WE DIG A HOLE, IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE THE SANDY SOIL IN THIS AREA COULD HOLD THE WATER IN.
Hmm
WOOOW!
YOU KNOW ALL ABOUT THIS SORTA STUFF TOO ?!
UM, WHAT WAS IT...ANGO-KUN?!


THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE SEEN THE ACTUAL THING.
THE PRESENCE OF A GEYSER INDICATES THAT THERE'S PLENTY OF WATER UNDERGROUND ...
SO YOU MIGHT BE ABLE TO DIG A WELL.

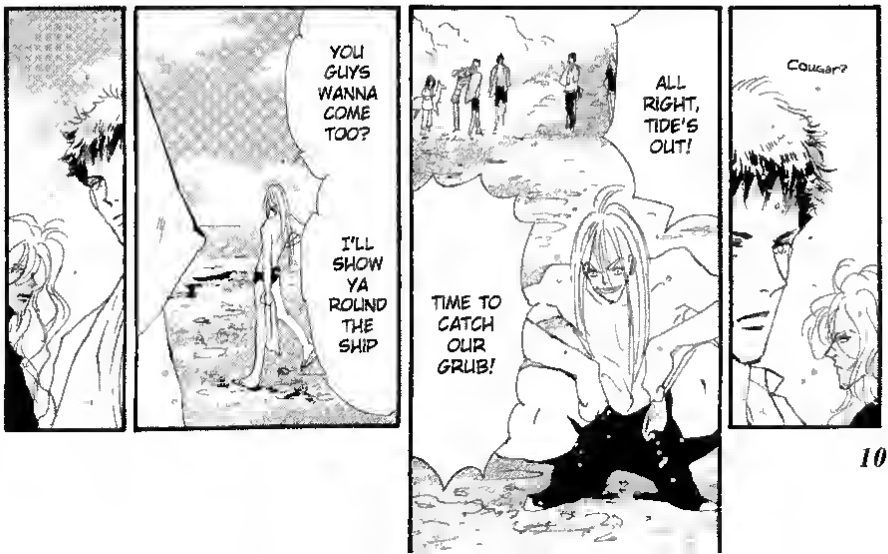

HOW KIND OF YOU, ANGO.
WATER IS A NECES-SITY.
WELL THEY SAY...
IF IT AIN'T BROKE, DON'T FIX IT!
WE'LL WORRY ABOUT THAT WHEN WE HAFTA!
OH!
THE TIDE'S GONE OUT PRETTY FAR, HUH?

SORRY ABOUT HIM ...
JUST IGNORE THAT IDIOT.
... YOU ...
ARE THEIR GUIDE, RIGHT?
ARE YOU A FRIEND OF THOSE TEACHERS ?
WELL I USED TO BE A POLICE OFFICER.
SO YOUR GUIDE WAS A TEACHER ?
I HEARD THAT FUNDAMENTALLY ALL THE GUIDES WERE CIVIL SERVANTS...
Oh, really?
SO I SUPPOSE THERE WOULD BE TEACHERS TOO.
I WOULD LOVE TO MEET YOUR GUIDE ONE DAY.

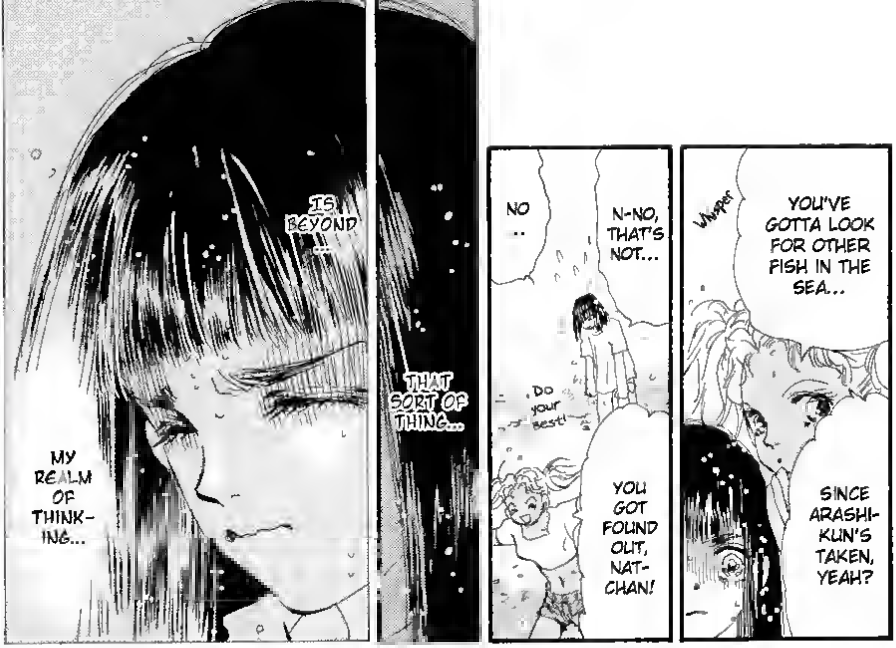

How troublesome, especially in a place like this. I hope it heals properly.
ARE YOU RIGHT-HANDED?
THAT MUST BE INCONVENIENT.
IF YOU NEED ANYTHING AT ALL,
JUST LET ME KNOW.
I've treated it, so it'll be fine.
...I WAS...
STRUCK BY A STONE.
IT'S PROBABLY JUST A MINOR FRACTURE.
HEY, HEY...
HOW'D YA HURT YOURSELF?
IS IT BROKEN? YOU OKAY?



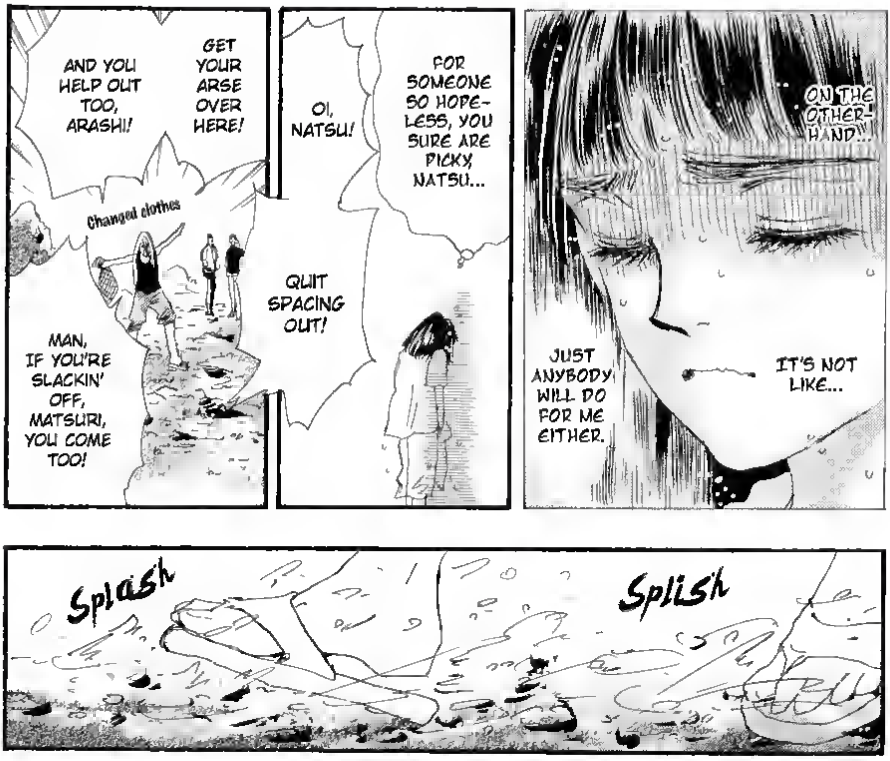
NOTE: An older woman who goes after young men.



KEEP THEIR DISTANCE?
THEY KEEP THEMSELVES AT A MANAGEABLE DISTANCE...
JUST IN CASE WE SUDDENLY TURN ON THEM.
FU FU.
THEY SEEM ...
PRETTY CALM AND LEVEL-HEADED.
AND DETERMINED TO KEEP THEIR DISTANCE.
Clever too
PERHAPS THEY'RE SKILLED IN MARTIAL ARTS.
LOOKS LIKE WE'VE GOT OURSELVES A RIVAL!
NO HARD FEELINGS WHATEVER HAPPENS, KAY?
NATCHAN, IT'S EVERY WOMAN FOR THEMSELVES...
EH?
I...I'M NOT...
THOSE TWO ARE ALL TENSE ...
HOW ADORABLE!!
BO-TAN-SAN?!
Such darling boys.


MY REALM OF THINK-ING...
IS BEYOND
THAT SORT OF THING...
NO ..
N-NO, THAT'S NOT...
Do your best!
YOU GOT FOUND OUT, NAT-CHAN!
whisper
YOU'VE GOTTA LOOK FOR OTHER FISH IN THE SEA...
SINCE ARASHI-KUN'S TAKEN, YEAH?

THERE NEVER ONCE WAS A GUY WHO FELL FOR ME...
EVEN THOUGH THERE WERE PLENTY OF PEOPLE ...
IN THE WORLD BEFORE ...
AFTER ALL...
THERE'S NO WAY THERE'D BE ANYONE AMONGST THEM...
WHO COULD LIKE SOMEONE LIKE ME.
NOW THAT THERE'S SO FEW PEOPLE ...


AND YOU HELP OUT TOO, ARASHI!
GET YOUR ARSE OVER HERE!
Changed clothes
MAN, IF YOU'RE SLACKIN' OFF, MATSURI, YOU COME TOO!
OI, NATSU!
FOR SOMEONE SO HOPE-LESS, YOU SURE ARE PICKY, NATSU...
QUIT SPACING OUT!
ON THE OTHER HAND...
IT'S NOT LIKE...
JUST ANYBODY WILL DO FOR ME EITHER.
Splash
Splish
WE DECIDED TO HEAD BACK TO KANTO ...
BUT SOMEHOW ALONG THE WAY WE WOUND UP COMPLETELY LOST.
TO TOP IT ALL OFF, WE RAN A-GROUND!
AFTER WE GOT TO SHIKOKU...
SO Y'KNOW ...
WE FOUND THAT BOAT IN THE TOHOKU SUPPLIES SHELTER.

WHEN THE TIDE GOES OUT...
YOU CAN WALK TO THE SHIP.
OH YEAH, WE'VE GOT EXTRA BEDS...
SO YOU CAN STAY HERE IF YA WANT ...
THOUGH THE TILT KINDA SUCKS.

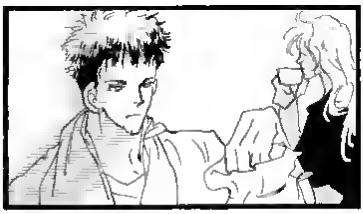
IT'S ...
COVERED IN ALGAE AND BARNACLES.
YOU SHOULD GET RID OF THEM IN CASE THEY PUT A HOLE IN THE HULL.
Has the hull already been damaged?
We ain't got no holes!
AHH, THAT'LL BE A PAIN IN THE ARSE TO DO ...
AND!
BANG
BANG
SCUTTLE
SCUTTLE
THIS WAY WE GET CRABS!
NAB 'EM!
WOOH OO
Scuttle
Scuttle
Scuttle
Scuttle
Scuttle
GET ALL THEM CRABS!
THOSE HERMIT CRABS TOO!
WHATTA HAUL!
WHATTA HAUL!

EAT AS MUCH AS YOU LIKE EVERY DAY!
TAKE AS MUCH AS YOU CAN!
HOW-EVER!
Doesn't touch unfamiliar things with bare hands.
THEY'RE PRETTY TASTY!
A subtle crab flavour ♡
AND SURPRISINGLY SLOW TOO.
Y'KNOW WHY?
ALWAYS CHUCK A FEW BACK INTO THE SEA.
YOU CAN'T TAKE ALL OF 'EM.
EEK!
SEMI-MARU-SAN!
IT'S JUST LIKE THOSE MORON BIRDS!
WANNA KNOW WHY WE CALL 'EM THAT?

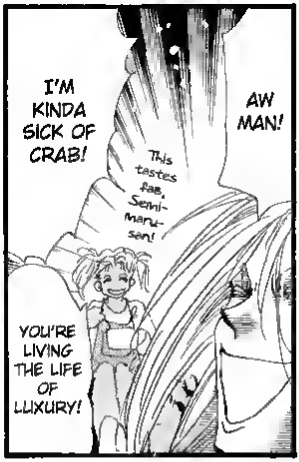
FLICK
EEEEEK!
Noo, STAY AWAY!
I CAN'T STAND THOSE THINGS!
IS IT INEDIBLE ?
HE'S GOOD,
Yeah
MUST BE USED TO USING ONE.
DIDJA SEE HOW FAST HE FLIPPED OUT THAT KNIFE?
ARA-SHI!
C'mere a sec!
HEY, ARA-SHI...
It's gotta be poisonous!
YOU'D EAT SOMETHING THAT GROSS?!
YOU DECIDED THAT BY ITS APPEARANCE?
I suppose judging by appearances sometimes works.
NO DUH!
No, stupid!
UNTIL WE KNOW THEY'RE SAFE.
WE BETTER KEEP AN EYE ON THEM...

SEMI-MARU ...
I'M A VETERAN SO I CAN TELL WITH THESE THINGS.
THEY DON'T SMELL DANGEROUS OR ANYTHING ...
BUT THEY MIGHT BE OUT TO ROB US.
Oh, that's right
DON'T YOU REMEMBER?
THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT TEAM AUTUMN SAID TO US!
BACK THEN WE THOUGHT THEY WERE BEING UNREASONABLE.
IF THEY'RE SKILLED WITH KNIVES ...
I GUESS YOU CAN'T HELP FEELING WEARY ...
BUT ISN'T THAT A SAD THOUGHT ?
BESIDES WE'VE ALREADY SHOWN THEM THE SHIP.
It's always better to be open
IF WE HID IT, THAT'LL ONLY FUEL THEIR DESIRE TO GET AT IT.
WELL ANYWAY, IT'S DANGEROUS TO TRUST ANYONE STRAIGHT OFF THE BAT...
ESPECIALLY IN A WORLD LIKE THIS.

I WANT TO TRUST PEOPLE...
BECAUSE WE'RE IN A WORLD LIKE THIS.
HEH...
HEH HEH HEH ...
Snort
PTOOE!
HAVEN'T THEY BEEN CLEANING OR MAINTAINING IT AT ALL?
What a waste.
IT'LL FALL INTO DISREPAIR SOON
LEAVING THE SHIP ON A LEAN WILL PUT STRAIN ON THE MAST TOO.
It'll break
HUH?
EH?
Which one?
GRAB THAT SEAWEED TOO!
NATSU!
KYA HA HA HA HA HA
AH? COULD THIS BE THE MAKINGS OF A NEW GAG?
Cut it out!
MY BAD, IT'S JUST YOUR HAIR!
OOPS!
Quiet!

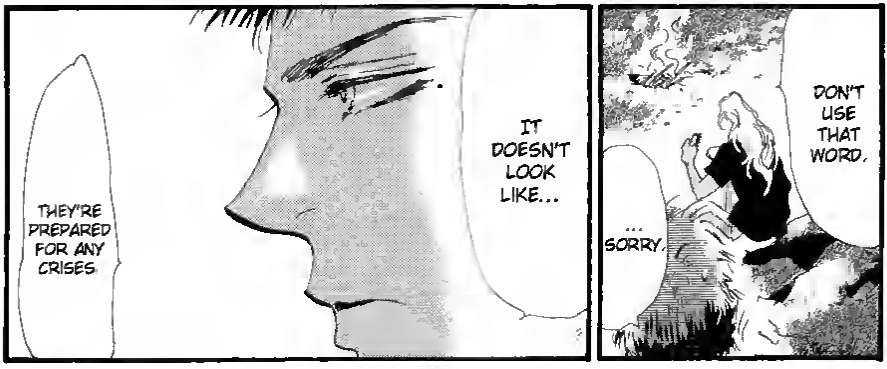


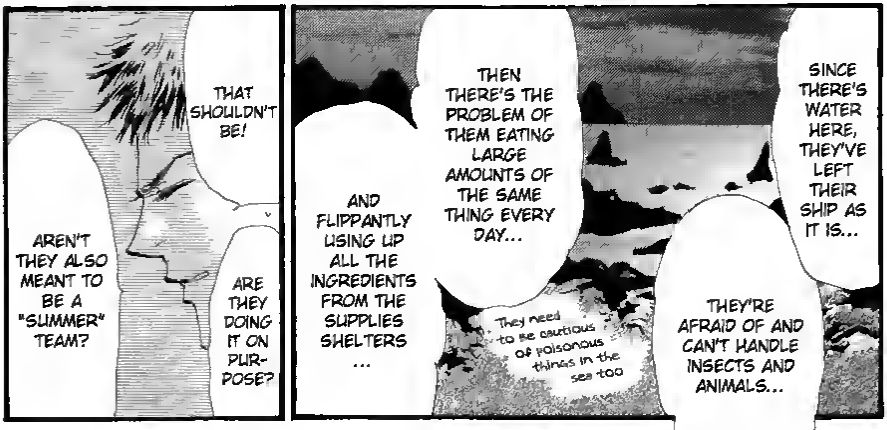
*NOTE: A type of seasoning you sprinkle on top of rice.

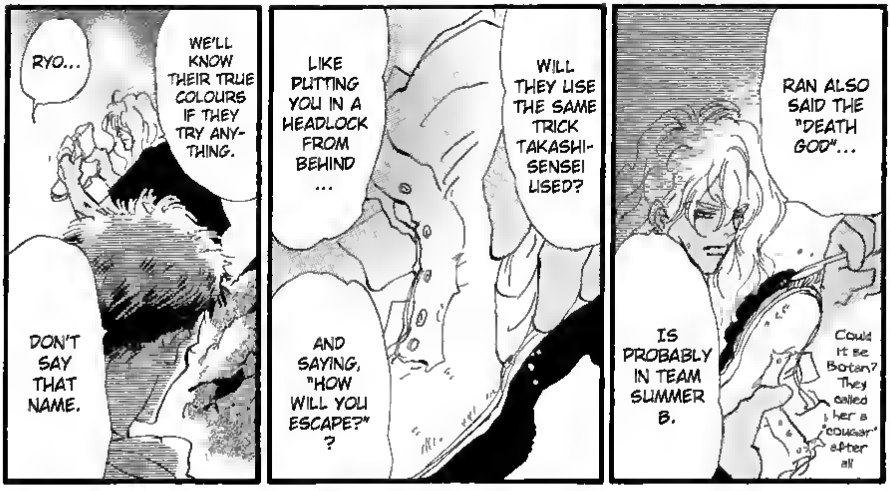


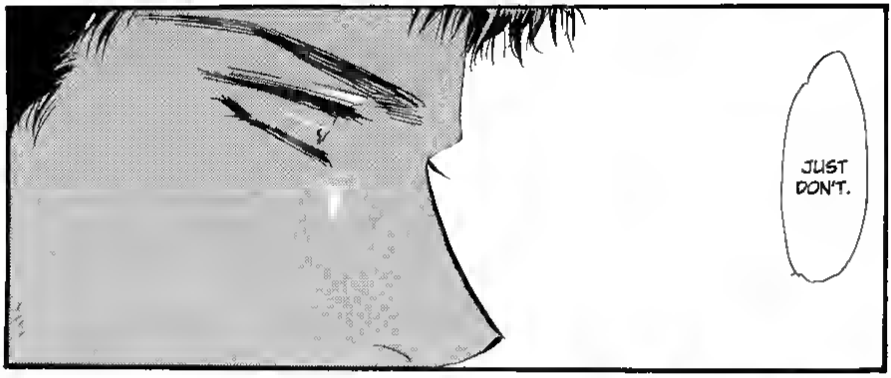
EEK!
SOME SORT OF ANT.
And we try so hard to avoid those things too!
NOOOOOO!!
THESE ONES ARE SWEET.
?
INSECTS ARE AN EXCELLENT SOURCE OF PROTEIN.
They're full of other nutrients too.
I've always been fine with that. I used to eat hornet and stonefly larvae back on my nana's farm in Nagano.
OH MY ...
YOU'RE USED TO EATING THAT?
Those two are still terrified of them.

COMMONERS?
OR WERE THEY CHOSEN LIKE WE WERE...?
ARE THEY A BUNCH OF COMMONERS?
WHAT DO YOU THINK?
Brush
Brush

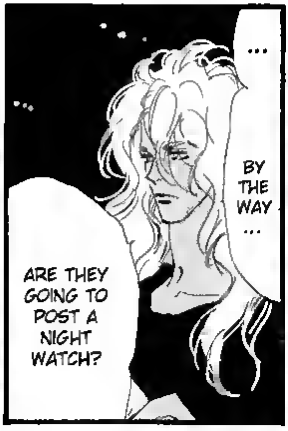

THEY'RE PREPARED FOR ANY CRISES
IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE...
DON'T USE THAT WORD.
... SORRY.


AREN'T THEY ALSO MEANT TO BE A "SUMMER" TEAM?
THAT SHOULDN'T BE!
ARE THEY DOING IT ON PURPOSE?
AND FLIPPANTLY USING UP ALL THE INGREDIENTS FROM THE SUPPLIES SHELTERS ...
THEN THERE'S THE PROBLEM OF THEM EATING LARGE AMOUNTS OF THE SAME THING EVERY DAY...
They need to be cautious of poisonous things in the sea too
SINCE THERE'S WATER HERE, THEY'VE LEFT THEIR SHIP AS IT IS...
THEY'RE AFRAID OF AND CAN'T HANDLE INSECTS AND ANIMALS...


RYO...
WE'LL KNOW THEIR TRUE COLOURS IF THEY TRY ANY-THING.
DON'T SAY THAT NAME.
LIKE PUTTING YOU IN A HEADLOCK FROM BEHIND ...
AND SAYING, "HOW WILL YOU ESCAPE?" ?
WILL THEY USE THE SAME TRICK TAKASHI-SENSEI USED?
RAN ALSO SAID THE "DEATH GOD"...
IS PROBABLY IN TEAM SUMMER B.
Could it be Botan? They called her a "cougar" after all


JUST DON'T.

HEY!
HOW DOES YOUR NIGHT WATCH SYSTEM WORK?
DO YOU RO-TATE ?


...
BY THE WAY ...
ARE THEY GOING TO POST A NIGHT WATCH?

AH...
WE'VE NEVER REALLY WORRIED ABOUT THAT.
CHIMAKI STAYS UP ALL NIGHT ...
SO IF ANYTHING HAPPENS HE'LL SAY SOMETHING.
CHI-MAKI ?
YOU LEAVE IT ALL TO ONE GUY?
I used to be one too
COS HE'S A NIGHT OWL AFTER ALL.
HE SLEEPS DURING THE MORN-ING.
HE SEEMS PRETTY FOCUSED ON WHATEVER HE'S DOING, SO JUST LEAVE HIM BE.
THAT'S NOT A NIGHT WATCH.
EVEN IF THIS ISN'T THE WET SEASON WHERE DANGEROUS BEASTS ROAM ABOUT...
Crunch
Crunch
LEAVE IT, LET THEM FEND FOR THEM-SELVES.
LET'S ALTER-NATE SHIFTS.
I'LL GO FIRST.
SHAA
SHAAAA
SHAAAA

IT FEELS LIKE THEY'RE CLOSING IN ON ME.
THE WAVES ARE LOUD...
CHINK CHINK CHINK
CHINK CHINK
Exhale
WELL THEN...
IT'S ABOUT TIME TO SWITCH.

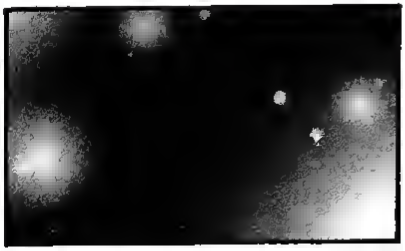
WHO?
WHERE ...
DUNNO.
WHERE
IS SHIGERU ?
IS SHIGERU ?

CAN'T HEAR THE WAVES.
ANGO ...

YOU DIDN'T TAKE HIS LIFE WITH YOUR OWN HANDS.
UNLIKE GENGORO ...

NOR DID YOU BURY HIM.
YOU DIDN'T WITNESS HIS DEATH ...
UNLIKE KORURI ...

THAT'S ALL.
LET'S CHANGE.
THEN HE WAS GONE.
OI...
YOU ONLY FELT HIS WEIGHT SUDDENLY DISAPPEAR ...



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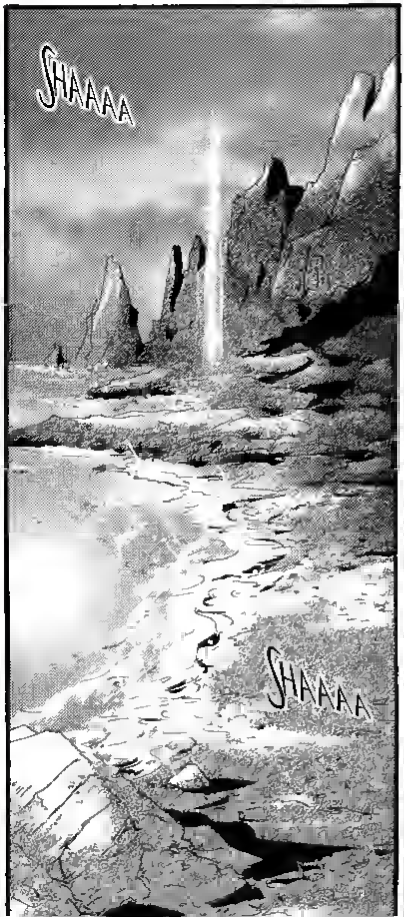
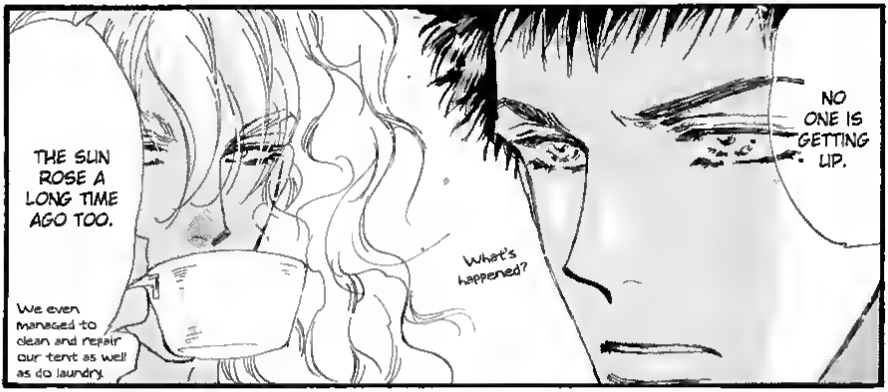

SHAAAA
SHAAAA

YOU'RE STILL...
STUCK IN THE MIDST OF THAT TEST.
GET TO SLEEP.

SHAAAA
SHAAAA
SHAAA

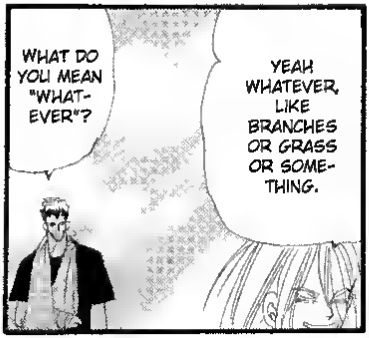

THE SUN ROSE A LONG TIME AGO TOO.
We even managed to clean and repair our tent as well as do laundry.
What's happened?
NO ONE IS GETTING UP.

IN ANY CASE, THERE ARE ONLY TWO OF US AND YOU'RE INJURED.
WE SHOULD ACTIVELY AVOID ANY FORM OF CONFLICT.

GOOD MORNING.
GOOD NIGHT
I'M OFF TO TAKE A MORNING DIP.
Ngh

OH? YOU'RE UP EARLY.
SHOULD WE ROUSE THEM?
MORN-ING.

TODAY IS SATURDAY~
TOMORROW IS SUNDAY~
WELL THEN, TIME TO PUT TOGETHER A MAKESHIFT STAGE!
SATUR-DAY?
Currently looking for edible things
AHH, WE JUST RANDOMLY DECIDED IT.
It's that bug-eating guy!
THAT DUMB ARASHI SAID WE SHOULD KEEP IT UP.
DO...
YOU GUYS HAVE ...
ANY DAILY ASSIGN-MENTS SET?
This is edible.
ASSIGN-MENTS ?!
...
UH ...
I don't think much of 'assign-ments'
HMM ...
I GUESS SO.
TO-MORROW'S THE TALENT QUEST...
SO YOU COULD SAY WE'VE GOT ONE ASSIGN-MENT!
You don't have to help or anything though.
YOU GUYS WANNA APPEAR IN IT TOO?
TALENT QUEST ?
Oh!
Ah well
GUESS YA CAN'T WITH THAT INJURY.
YOU CAN JUST WATCH THIS TIME ROUND, WE'LL DO IT AGAIN SOMETIME.


WHAT DO YOU MEAN "WHATEVER"?
YEAH WHATEVER, LIKE BRANCHES OR GRASS OR SOMETHING.

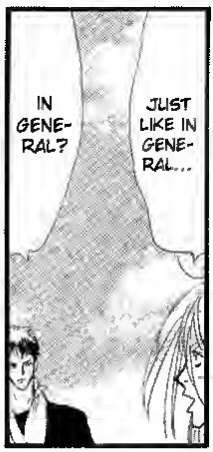
I've never had a free moment in my life.
WHATEVER WORKS?

WE'RE GONNA PUT SOME DECORATIONS ON THE STAGE...
SO IF YOU'RE FREE, WHY DON'TCHA GO GET ME SOME DRIFTWOOD OR WHATEVER WORKS.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY "WHATEVER"?
What about thickness, length, quality, or amount?
WHATEVER IS WHATEVER.

HE SEEMS LIKE A PRETTY SERIOUS GUY.
Fond of serious people.
DUDE IS HE EVEN JAPANESE?!

UH...
JUST...
FORGET IT.

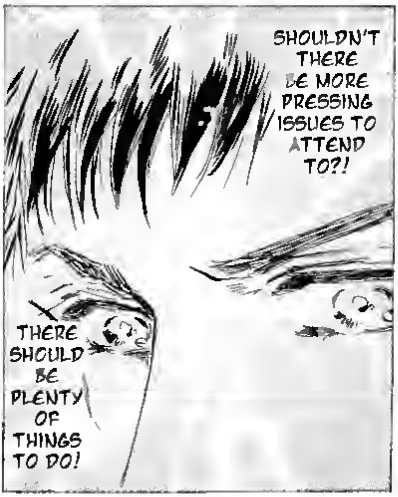

IN GENERAL?
JUST LIKE IN GENERAL...

THEY DON'T DO ANYTHING IN PARTICULAR ...
THEY SCATTER ABOUT AND TAKE THINGS SLOWLY.
THROUGH-OUT THE ENTIRE DAY.

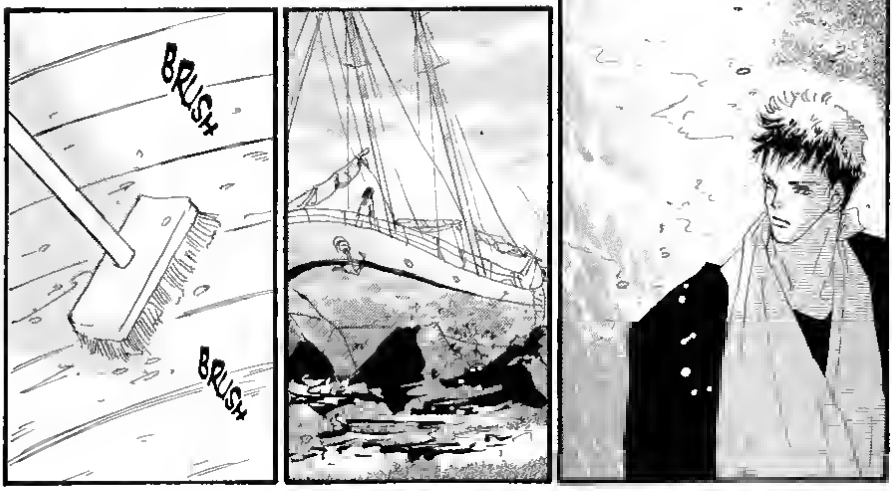
WHAT IS THAT?
THEN THERE ARE THE TALENT QUEST PREPARA-TIONS...

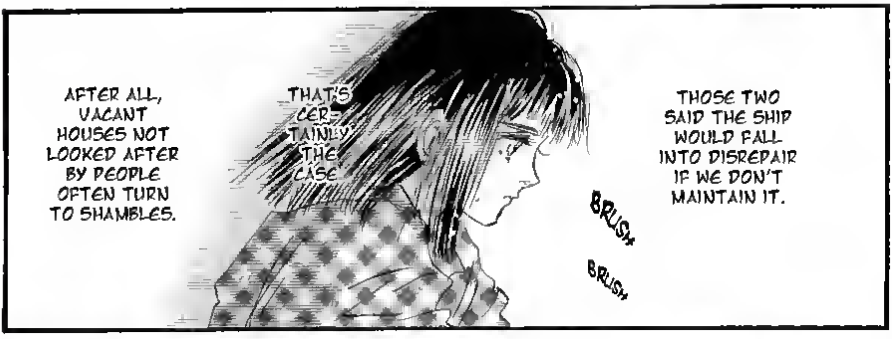
Cactus Sashimi
THEY HAVE LATE MORN-INGS ...
AND ONLY GATHER TO EAT AT DUSK.
Yester-day's Left-overs
Fake Naan
OTHER THAN THAT, EACH INDIVIDUAL EATS WHEN-EVER THEY LIKE.

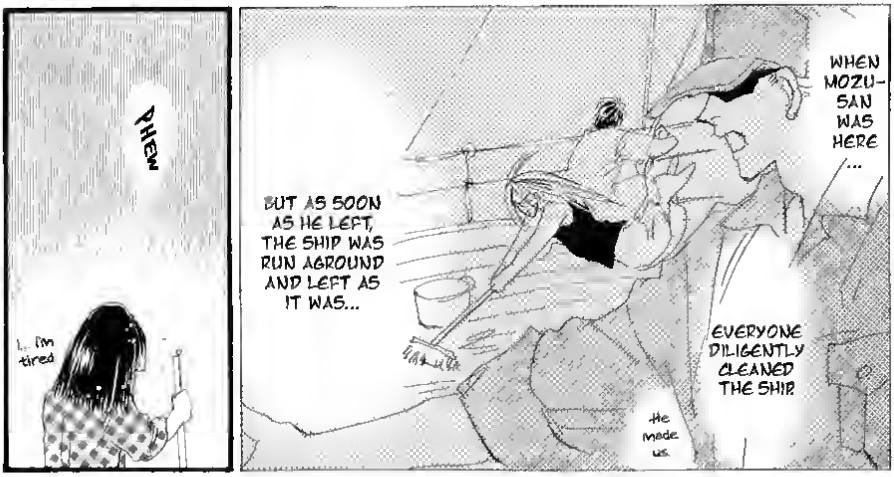
THEY GATHER WHEN THE GEYSER BLOWS ...
ONLY TO WASH THEM-SELVES.

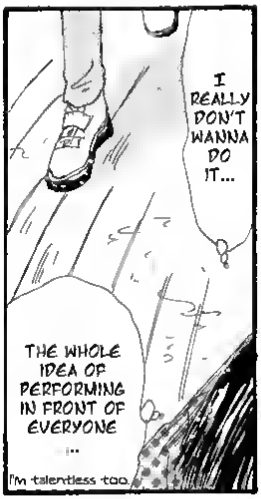

SHOULDN'T THERE BE MORE PRESSING ISSUES TO ATTEND TO?!
THERE SHOULD BE PLENTY OF THINGS TO DO!

THE MATTRESSES TAKEN FROM THE SHIP ARE JUST CHUCKED ON THE GROUND...
AND THEY SLEEP ON THEM LIKE THAT.
Probably because it doesn't rain

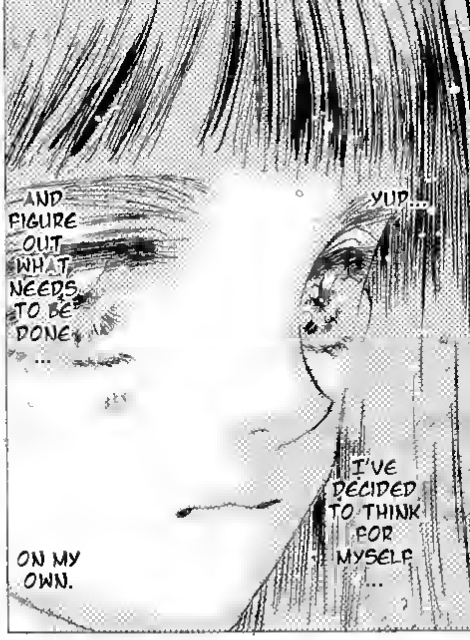

BRUSH
BRUSH


AFTER ALL, VACANT HOUSES NOT LOOKED AFTER BY PEOPLE OFTEN TURN TO SHAMBLES.
THAT'S CER-TAINLY THE CASE
THOSE TWO SAID THE SHIP WOULD FALL INTO DISREPAIR IF WE DON'T MAINTAIN IT.
BRUSH
BRUSH

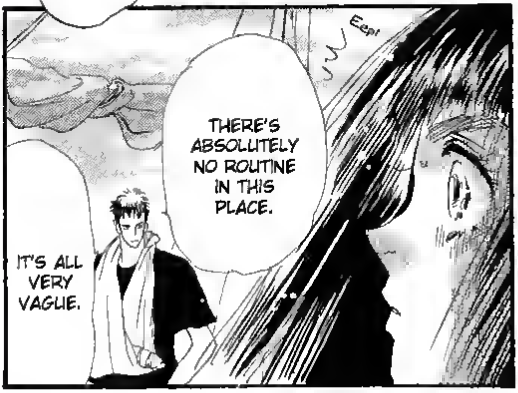

PHEW
I... I'm tired
BUT AS SOON AS HE LEFT, THE SHIP WAS RUN AGROUND AND LEFT AS IT WAS...
WHEN MOZU-SAN WAS HERE ...
EVERYONE DILIGENTLY CLEANED THE SHIP
-He made us.


I REALLY DON'T WANNA DO IT...
THE WHOLE IDEA OF PERFORMING IN FRONT OF EVERYONE ...
I'm talentless too.

GUESS I'VE GROWN UP A BIT...
AHH...
BUT STILL, I'M NOT LOOKING FORWARD TO...
THE TALENT QUEST ...


YUP...
AND FIGURE OUT WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE ...
I'VE DECIDED TO THINK FOR MYSELF ...
ON MY OWN.

WELL AT LEAST PERFORM-ING WITH SEMIMARU ...
IS A WHOLE LOT BETTER THAN DOING IT BY MYSELF!
ARE YOU THE ONLY ONE...
WHO DOES ANY WORK AROUND HERE?


Eep!
THERE'S ABSOLUTELY NO ROUTINE IN THIS PLACE.
IT'S ALL VERY VAGUE.

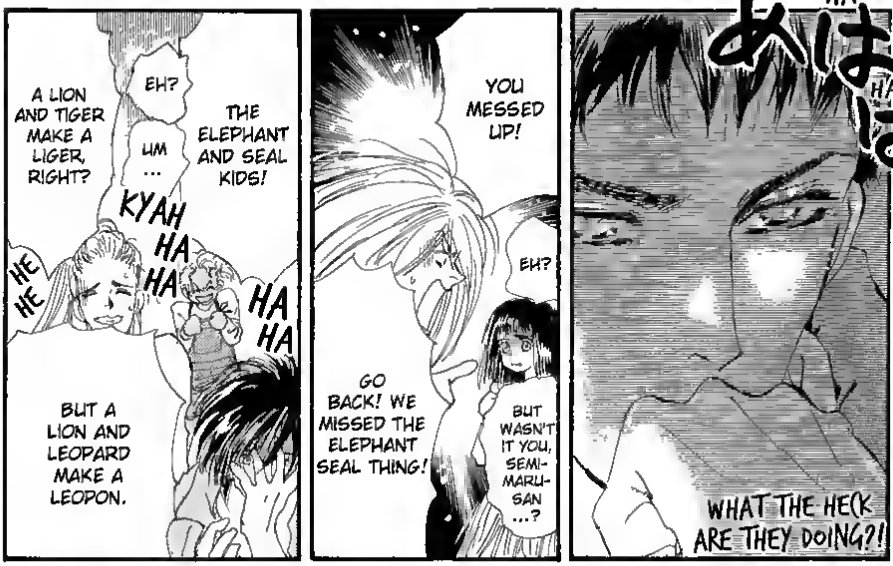
HUH?!
WOULD YOU LIKE SOME HELP?
Nervous
UH ...
UM ...
SORRY ...
AM I BEING SCOLDED?
I CAN'T USE MY HAND...
I'LL DO THE CLEANING.
SO YOU CAN MEND THE SAIL.
AH...
M-MAYBE...
BELOW DECK ...
THEN BRING THEM HERE.
DO YOU HAVE ANY TOOLS?
YOU SHOULD ALSO UNDO THE SAILS AND REPAIR THEM.
WHAT A KIND PERSON!
R...
RIGHT!
WHA ...

I'M SO HOPE-LESS...
..AND HE'S STAR-ING AT ME...
HERE I AM SHAK-ING...
Flustered
UH ...
UM ...
PLUS I'M BEING WATCHED ...
DOING SOMETHING THIS ADVANCED IS A BIT...
I'm not sure where to start
YOU CAN'T DO IT ?
Torn
Frayed
HE'S REALLY STARING AT ME ...

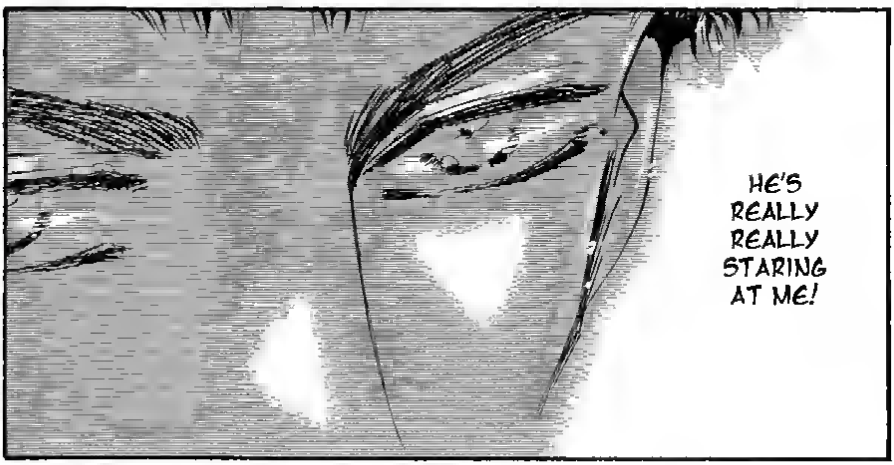
OUR SUNDAY NIGHT OF ENTERTAINMENT HAS FINALLY ARRIVED!
TALENT QUEST
Tonight's the talent quest!
Clap
Clap
LADIES AND GENTLE-MEN!
LAST WEEK'S SINGING CONTEST SURE WAS A HIT, HUH?
Clap
Clap
Clap
PLUS ARASHI'S COMPLETE LACK OF VOCAL TALENT WAS EXPOSED!
AH-HA-HA-HA
Arashi-kun was awe-some!
YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO MEN-TION THAT ...
HA-HA
IS US!
WELL THEN, FIRST UP...

ANGO ...?

WAH HA HA HA
HA HA
YAAAH
WHAT'S UP WITH THE 'OE~?
WHOOSH
WE'RE SEMIMARU & NATSU!
ALO~ HA~
'OE~
ARENT SEALS AND DOLPHINS THE SAME ?!
THEY'RE BOTH FOUND IN THE SEA!
HUH ...?
ISN'T IT MEANT TO BE DOL-PHIN?
NYA HAHA HA HA HA
WHAT ARE YOU, A SEAL ?!
'OE!
'OE!
YOU PUKING OR WHAT?!
'OE~
YOU'RE GONNA PISS OFF THEM HAWAIIANS !
HAHAHA
WRONG, WRONG, WRONG! THAT'S NOT IT!
WRONG !!
WHACK
.....
R-RIGHT... SEA CREA-TURES...
RIGHT, COS THEY'RE MON-STERS.


A LION AND TIGER MAKE A LIGER, RIGHT?
EH?
UM ...
THE ELEPHANT AND SEAL KIDS!
KYAH HA HA HA
HE HE
HA HA
BUT A LION AND LEOPARD MAKE A LEOPON.
YOU MESSED UP!
EH?
GO BACK! WE MISSED THE ELEPHANT SEAL THING!
BUT WASN'T IT YOU, SEMI-MARU-SAN ...?
AH HA あはは HA
WHAT THE HE(K ARE THEY DOING?!

*NOTE. *Ponzu* is a Japanese sauce made primarily of citrus juice and soy sauce.



7 SEEDS

Chapter 88

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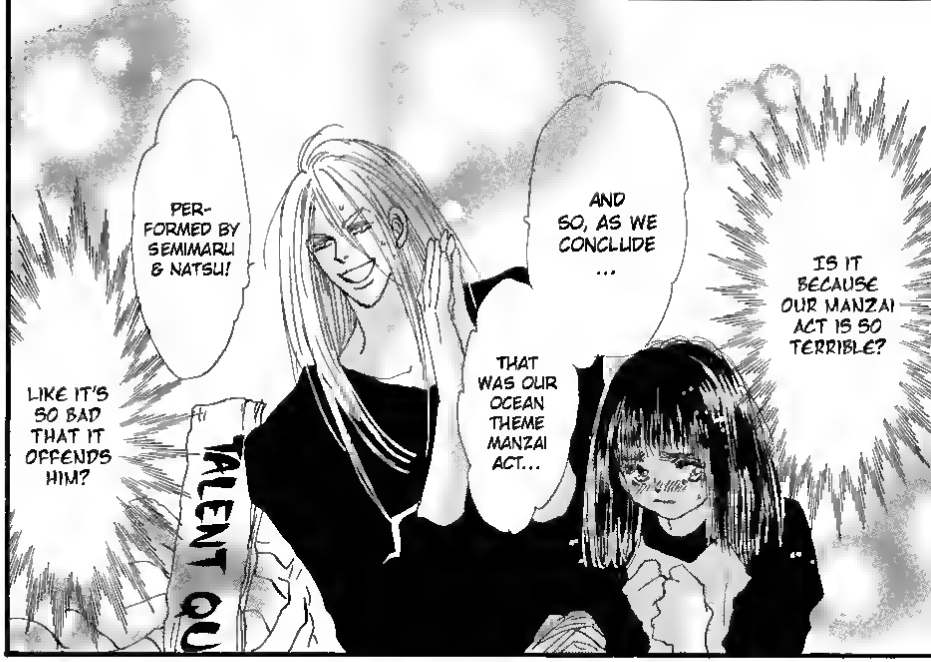
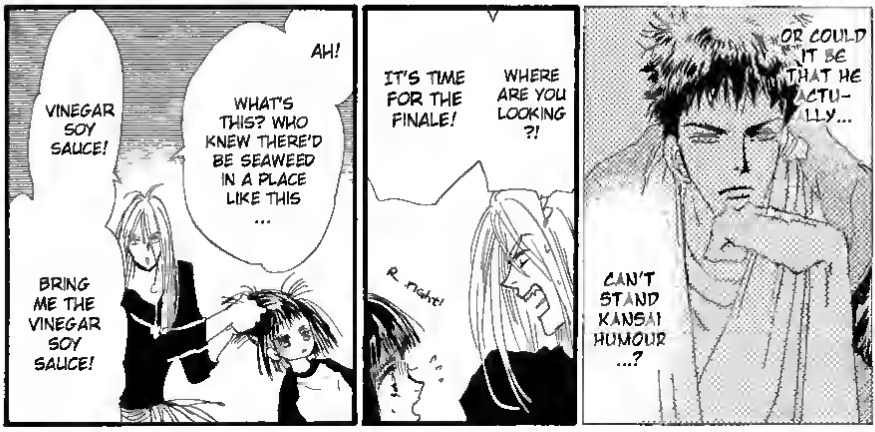
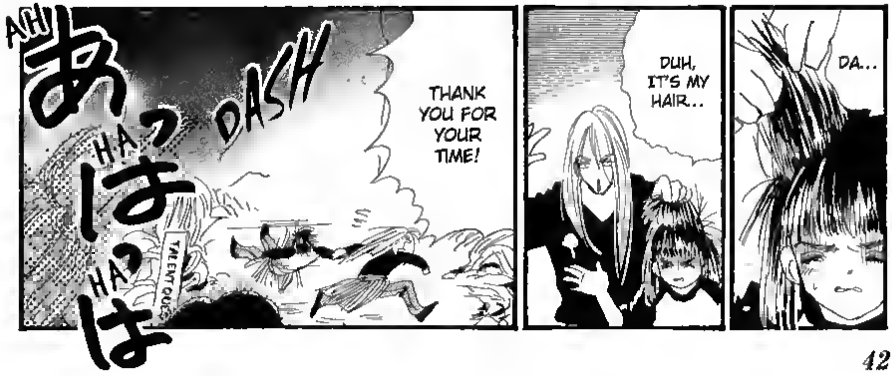
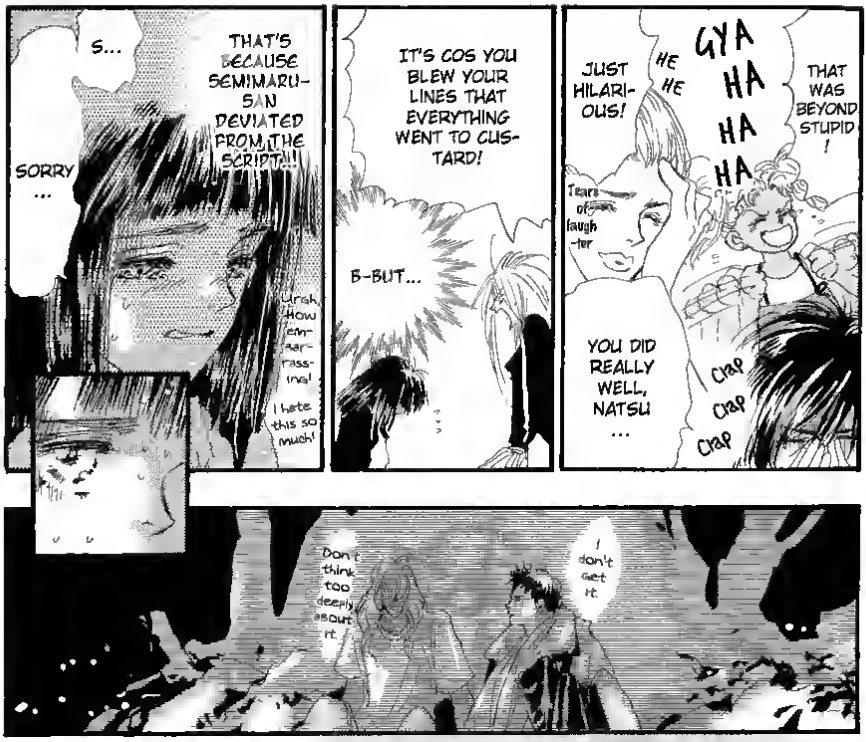
MINOR HEAT
CHAPTER 3
[—DANCIN' ALL NIGHT—]

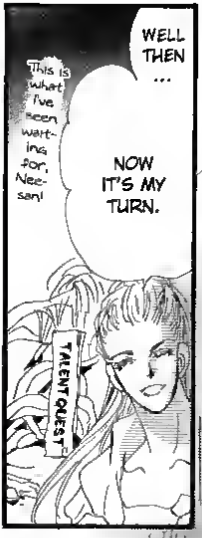
NOTE: [illegible] after [illegible] & [illegible] debut single, "Dancin' All Night", [illegible] in 1980.


IS IT BECAUSE OUR MANZAI ACT IS SO TERRIBLE?
AND SO, AS WE CONCLUDE ...
THAT WAS OUR OCEAN THEME MANZAI ACT...
PER-FORMED BY SEMIMARU & NATSU!
LIKE IT'S SO BAD THAT IT OFFENDS HIM?
TALENT QU


OR COULD IT BE THAT HE ACTU-LLY...
CAN'T STAND KANSAI HUMOUR ...?
WHERE ARE YOU LOOKING ?!
IT'S TIME FOR THE FINALE!
R_right!
AH!
WHAT'S THIS? WHO KNEW THERE'D BE SEAWEED IN A PLACE LIKE THIS ...
VINEGAR SOY SAUCE!
BRING ME THE VINEGAR SOY SAUCE!


DA...
DUH, IT'S MY HAIR...
THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME!
DASH
AH!
あ
HA
は
HA
は
TALENT COUR


S...
SORRY ...
THAT'S BECAUSE SEMIMARU-SAN DEVIATED FROM THE SCRIPT!!
Urgh, how em-barrass-ing!
I hate this so much!
IT'S COS YOU BLEW YOUR LINES THAT EVERYTHING WENT TO CUS-TARD!
B-BUT...
JUST HILARI-OUS!
HE HE
GYA HA HA HA
THAT WAS BEYOND STUPID!
Tears of laugh-ter
YOU DID REALLY WELL, NATSU ...
Crap
Crap
Crap
Don't think too deeply about it
I don't get it


This is what I've been wait-ing for, Nee-san!
WELL THEN ...
NOW IT'S MY TURN.
TALENT QUEST

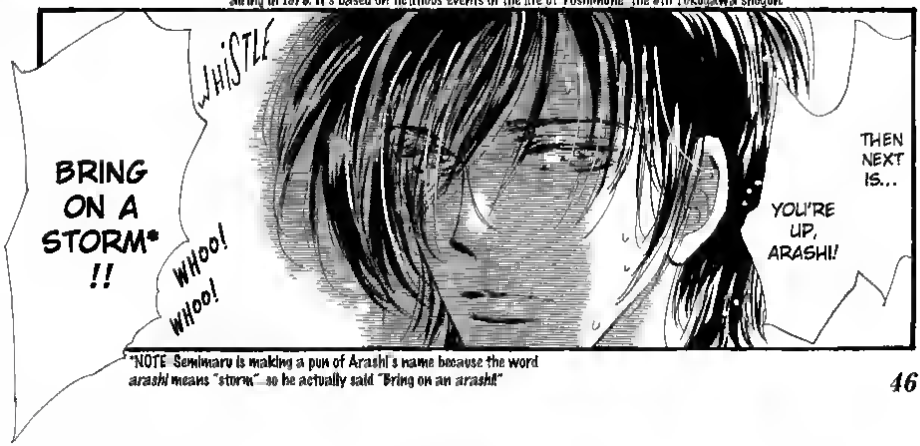
IT WAS JUST YOU BEING TERRIBLY SELF-CONSCIOUS, NATSU.
WAS IT JUST MY IMAGINA-TION? NO ONE WAS STARING AT YOU!!

OKAY, BOYS...
HOLD THAT ROPE UP AT HIP LEVEL...
Since we don't have a straight pole to use
AND THE REST OF YOU STOMP ME A BEAT!
OOH!
WOW
WOW
KYAH!
OHH
BOTAN-NEESAN!
STOMP
Here I go!
Hup!
Hup!
THE LIMBO DANCE !!
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP

*NOTE: During the Edo period (1603-1868) the feudal regime of Japan was ruled by shoguns of the Tokugawa family until this system was abolished during the Meiji Restoration.

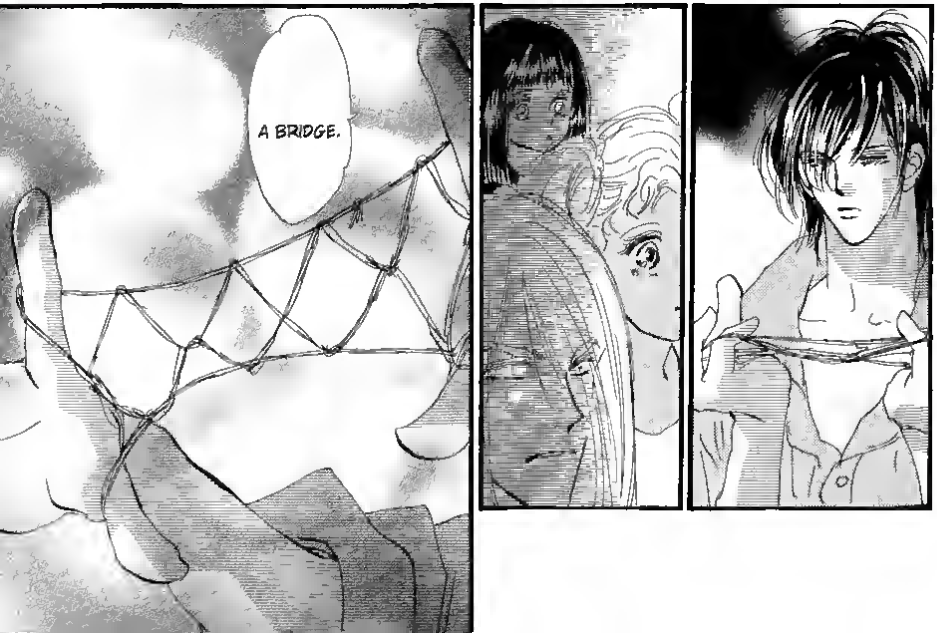
*NOTE The correct order where Matsuri messed up is Ietsugu(7th) Yoshimune(8th) Ieshige(9th) and Ieharu(10th) So as Ango pointed out, Matsuri mixed up Ietsugu and Yoshimune, and Ieharu and Ieshige.

*NOTE Abarenbo Shogun (The Bold Shogun) is actually the name of a TV programme that started airing in 1978. It's based on fictitious events in the life of Yoshimune, the 8th Tokugawa shogun.

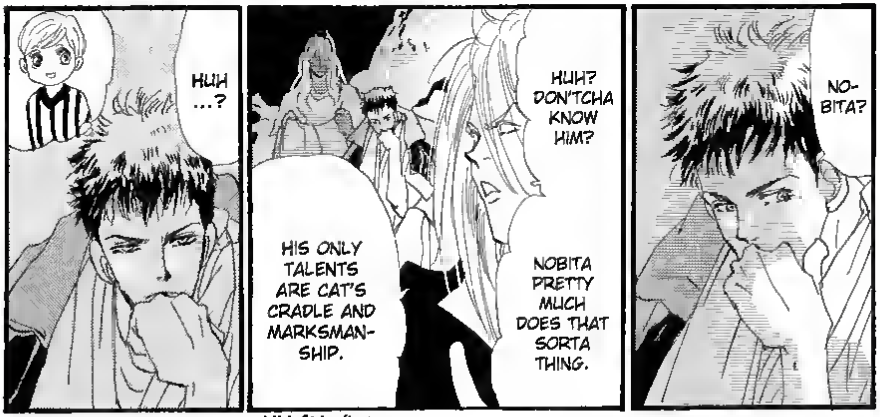


*NOTE Seminaru is making a pun of Arashi's name because the word *arashi* means "storm"...so he actually said "Bring on an *arashi*!"

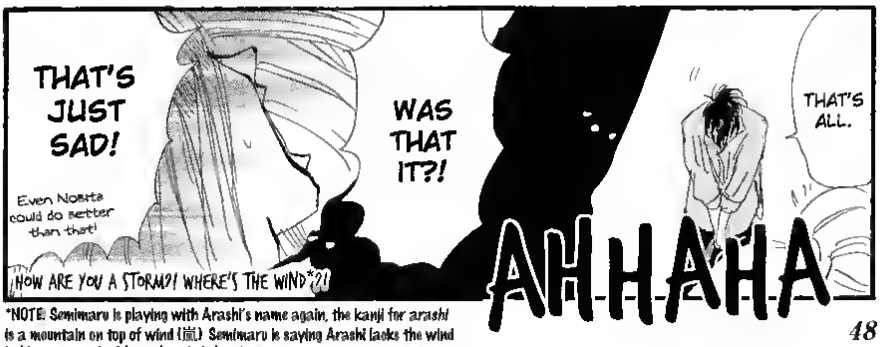
I'M...
NOT MUCH OF A PERFORMER SO...
WHAT IS ARASHI GOING TO DO...?
UM...
HELLO.
OH?
Dangle
Sorna?
A MAGIC TRICK?


A BRIDGE.

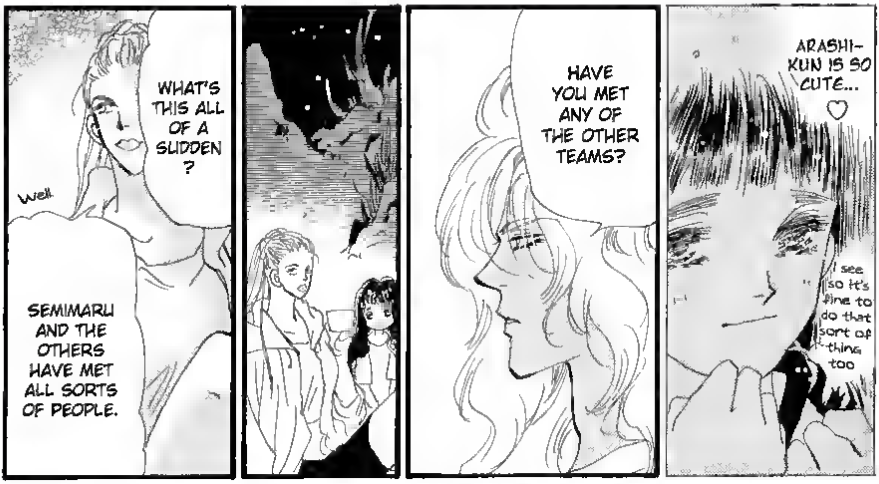
*NOTE: Seminaru is of course referring to Noki Nobita from Doraemon.


HUH ...?
HIS ONLY TALENTS ARE CAT'S CRADLE AND MARKSMAN-SHIP.
HUH? DON'TCHA KNOW HIM?
NOBITA PRETTY MUCH DOES THAT SORTA THING.
NO-BITA?

A.K.A. String figures



*NOTE: Seminaru is playing with Arashi's name again, the kanji for *arashi* is a mountain on top of wind (嵐). Seminaru is saying Arashi lacks the wind in his name and without the wind there's no storm.


WHAT'S THIS ALL OF A SUDDEN ?
Well
SEMIMARU AND THE OTHERS HAVE MET ALL SORTS OF PEOPLE.
HAVE YOU MET ANY OF THE OTHER TEAMS?
ARASHI-KUN IS SO CUTE... ♡
I see so it's fine to do that sort of thing too

DAMMIT !
THOSE SCUMBAGS WERE THE WORST!
YEAH, WE HAVE !
WE MET AUTUMN!
THE ABOMI-NABLE TEAM AUTUMN !!

THAT'S BECAUSE YOU STOLE THEIR FOOD!
THEY TRIED TA KILL ME!
I NEVER WANNA SEE 'EM AGAIN!

HE CLAIMED TO BE THE SOLE SURVIVOR OF TEAM WINTER AND HAD BEEN ON HIS OWN FOR 15 YEARS.
AT A GLANCE HE SEEMED PRETTY CIVIL, BUT HE WASN'T JUST ANY-BODY...
THAT GUY WAS TROUBLE!
Momoda
THEN THERE WAS THAT CHEEKY BRAT FROM SPRING ...
Hibari
PLUS THAT DOG-LOVING GEEZER.
PRETTY SURE HE KILLED THE REST OF TEAM WINTER AND ATE 'EM!

IF YA EVER MEET AUTUMN, HOTFOOT THE HELL OUTTA THERE!
ANY-WAY ...
I'M TELLING YA, DON'T EVER TRUST THOSE AUTUMN GUYS OR THAT DOG-LOVING GEEZER.
I wasn't thinking straight back then.
DUDE, WEREN'T YOU THE WARIEST ?!
YOU DON'T KNOW THAT FOR SURE.
SEMI-MARU!
MAYBE HE WAS GONNA TURN US INTO DOG CHOW!
And those dogs looked pretty ferocious!
WORRIED ABOUT US?
...AREN'T YOU...
...I WOULDN'T SAY WORRIED BUT...
Should we be?
WELL YOU SAVED ME, DINCHA?
YOU TWO DON'T SEEM BAD AT ALL.
Guess you're at that rebellious age.
You just sort of act tough

WELL Y'KNOW ...
I'VE SEEN PLENTY OF THOSE NO GOOD THUGS THAT WOULD HANG ROUND TOWN...
THROUGH-OUT MY LIFETIME.
IF I COMPARE YOU TWO TO THAT LOT...
HOW'D YOU PUT IT...
IT'S LIKE YOU TWO ARE FROM SOME HICK SCHOOL WAY OUT IN THE BOONIES ...
LIKE SOME SORTA SPORTS TRAINING CAMP.
I SEE.
Chuckle
I SUPPOSE WE HAVE BEEN TOLD THAT WE HAD A SHELTERED UPBRING-ING.
RYO!
OH?
RYO,
WE'VE NEVER HAD A SHELTERED UPBRINGING!
DON'T REPEAT THAT BASTARD'S WORDS...
THAT PLACE WASN'T LIKE THAT AT ALL...

HAVING A SHELTERED UPBRINGING AIN'T SUCH A BAD THING.
YOU CAN MAKE WHATEVER YOU WANT OUT OF YOUR LIFE.
YOU MEAN I WAS RAISED IN A HEATED POOL*?
Yeah, you, Arashi! No wait more like Kaze-kun!
YOU'RE KINDA LIKE THAT TOO!

*NOTE Yup, another play on Arashi's name. Kaze means wind, so by taking away the mountain in *arashi*, and changing it to just plain kaze, Semimaru is again dissing Arashi's lack of storm-like qualities.

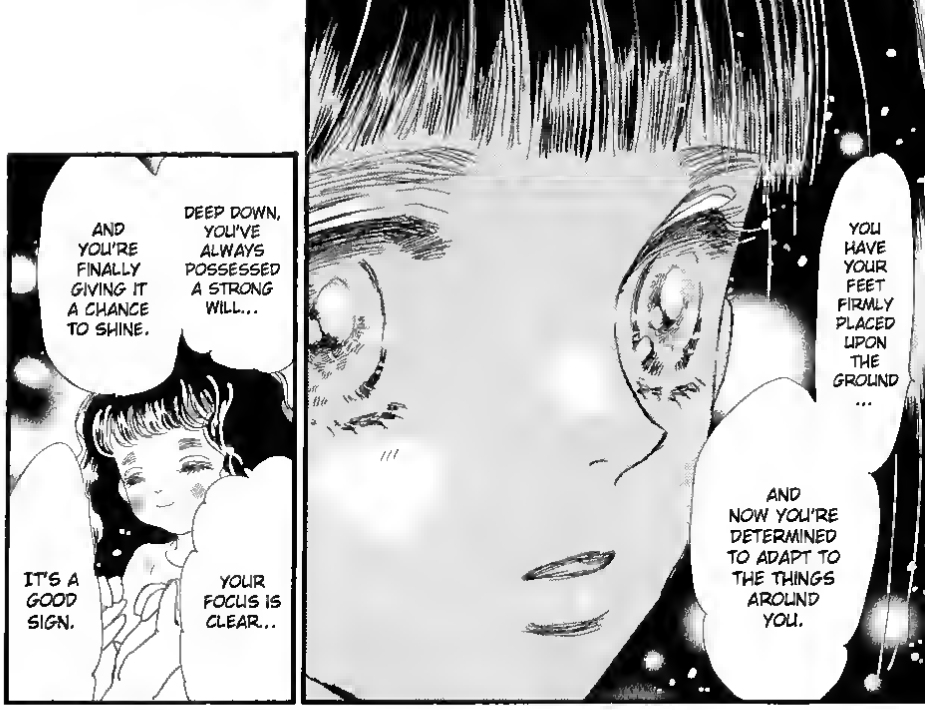
THOUGH WE'VE DIGRESSED, LET'S CONTINUE WITH THE TALENT QUEST!
WHO'S NEXT?
ME!
TALENT
WHO'S THE IDIOT?!
WHO ELSE?
THERE'S AN IDIOT IN OUR TEAM...
BUT HE'S GENERALLY HARMLESS.
WELL WHATEVER,
FROM THE START WE WERE GLAD TO MEET YOU ANYWAY.

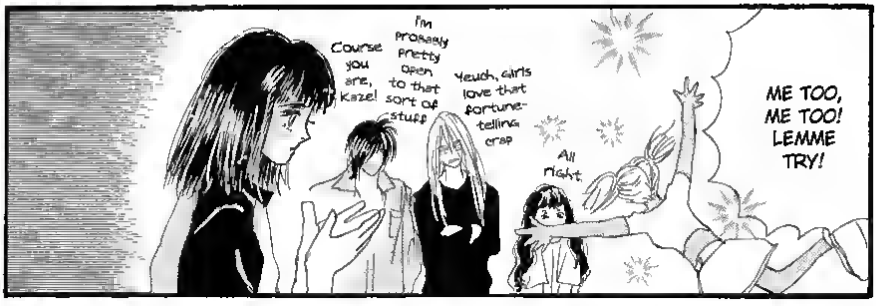
*NOTE The word for 'sheltered upbringing' in Japanese is literally 'raised in a hothouse' (*onshitsu sodachi*). Arashi plays with the word by changing it to 'raised in a heated pool' (*onsui puuru sodachi*).

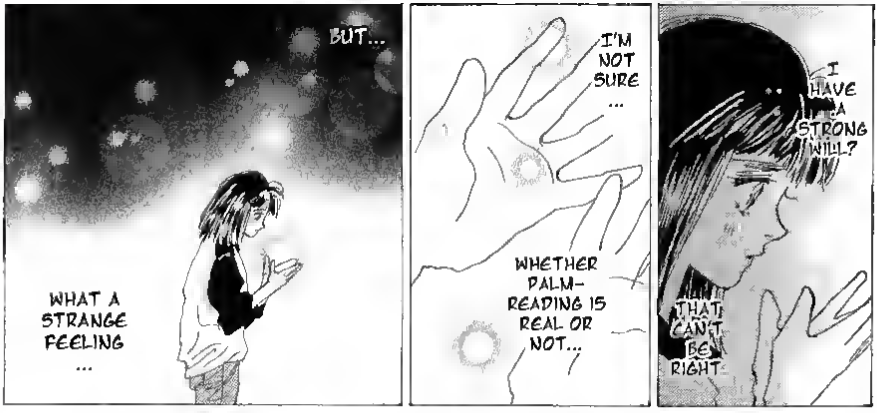
I'M HOTARU.
AND I WOULD LIKE TO DO PALM-READING.
M..
ME?!
SHOW ME BOTH OF YOUR HANDS.
NAT-CHAN ...
EH?
MAY I SEE YOUR HAND?
FORTUNE-TELLING USED TO BE MY JOB IN THE PREVIOUS WORLD.
OHH!
I see!
Your job? Just how old are you?!
MY METHOD INVOLVES ...
READING THE LEFT HAND FOR ONE'S DES-TINY FROM BIRTH...
AND THE RIGHT HAND FOR ONE'S CURRENT FORTUNE.
TO COMPLETELY REVEAL YOUR FORTUNE I NEED BOTH HANDS.

YOU'RE A VERY ROMANTIC PERSON.
YOU USED TO BE A DREAMER, A GIRL WHO WOULD KEEP TO HER OWN WORLD.
Ba-Dump
Giggle
SO IT DOES HAVE A NEGATIVE MEANING...
JUST AS I THOUGHT...
THAT WAS BEFORE YOU CAME HERE.
MY GRANDMOTHER USED TO SAY...
"YOU'RE A DREAMING YUMEKO-SAN*".
RO-MAN-TIC...?
YOUR EYES ARE FACING FORWARDS.
BUT NOW...

*NOTE: Yumeko lit. dream child.


AND YOU'RE FINALLY GIVING IT A CHANCE TO SHINE.
DEEP DOWN, YOU'VE ALWAYS POSSESSED A STRONG WILL...
IT'S A GOOD SIGN.
YOUR FOCUS IS CLEAR...
YOU HAVE YOUR FEET FIRMLY PLACED UPON THE GROUND ...
AND NOW YOU'RE DETERMINED TO ADAPT TO THE THINGS AROUND YOU.


Course you are, Kaze!
I'm probably pretty open to that sort of stuff
Yeuch, girls love that fortune-telling crap
All right
ME TOO, ME TOO! LEMME TRY!


BUT...
WHAT A STRANGE FEELING ...
I'M NOT SURE ...
WHETHER PALM-READING IS REAL OR NOT...
I HAVE A STRONG WILL...?
THAT CAN'T BE RIGHT!

AFTER COMING TO THIS WORLD?
DID MY LIFE BEGIN TO CHANGE ...
MY LIFE IS CHANGING ...
MATSURI-CHAN IS ALSO A "DREAMING YUMEKO-SAN".
Squee!
COURSE! I'M A YOUNG MAIDEN AFTER ALL!
YOU'RE VERY FLEXIBLE ...
YOU CAN EASILY READ THE SITUATION ...
AND FIT RIGHT IN WITH PEOPLE.
THAT'S WHY YOU'VE ALSO HAD PAINFUL EXPERIENCES.
BUT THAT HAS SERVED TO MAKE YOU STRONGER.
Ahh! Shucks!
REALLY?!
NOW YOU'RE INVINCIBLE.
HEY, HEY, WHAT ABOUT MY LOVE FORTUNE?!

UH?
THEN ARASHI-KUN, IF YOU WOULD.
NEXT IS...
I'LL PASS.
LET THE OTHERS HAVE A GO.
I'M FINE TOO.
WOO-HOO!
IT SEEMS YOU'VE MADE A WONDER-FUL ENCOUN-TER
Go Fight Win
YOU'RE KIDDING!
UH...
FOR REAL?!
YOU WERE QUITE THE STUBBORN CHILD...
AND AN ARROGANT LEADER OF THE PACK ?!
OH MY...
HOW UNEX-PECTED.
YOUR HEARTS CONNECT-ED...
YOU MET THAT PERSON ...
BUT YOU MET HER, DIDN'T YOU?
I was pretty selfish back then
I'VE REFLECTED CONSIDER-ABLY UPON MY MIS-GIVINGS ...

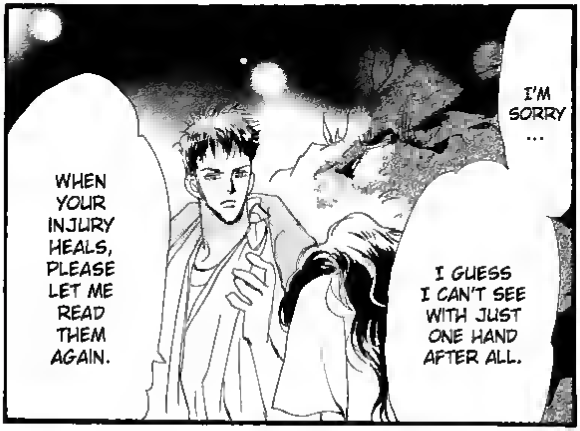
AND THE MEMORIES YOU WEAVED TOGETHER WERE TENDER AND SWEET.
YEAH.
THAT...
WITH HANA-SAN...
WAS WHAT BROUGHT FORTH THE ARASHI-KUN WHO NOW STANDS BEFORE US.
SEMI-MARU...
You're next.
HUH?!
NAH, I'M ALL GOOD!
NOW, NOW, DON'T SAY THAT.
YOU DON'T HAFTA READ MINE!

THAT SURE AS HELL WASN'T A GOOD THING.
I USED TO GET BULLIED.
Geez, all brats are like that!
A dreaming Yumeka-san
YOU WERE SPOILT AS A CHILD.
AND THAT TURNED YOU INTO A FRAGILE BOY MADE OF GLASS ...
BUT SOMETHING HAPPENED ...
HUH?!
I don't believe in fortune-telling! Not one bit!
YOU'VE HAD MANY CROSS-ROADS THROUGH-OUT YOUR LIFE.
EH?!
THEN SOMETHING ELSE HAPPENED ...
AND YOU SOON BECAME AN EDGY, AGGRESSIVE PERSON.
HEY!
SEMI-MARU !
YOU BRAT !
GETTING SOFT AIN'T A COMPLIMENT !!
I WANNA TOUGH LIFE OUT ON THE EDGE!!
BUT ...
NOW YOU'VE BECOME NICE AND SOFT ROUND THE EDGES.
RIGHT ...
WAIT, WHAT ?!

SEMI-MARU-SAN...
USED TO GET BULLIED ...?
SO YOU'RE ACTUALLY A FOOL?
I'M NOT ACTING !!
NO, DAMN IT!!
HELL NO!
WHAT'S WRONG WITH BEING SOFT?
THAT YOU CAN ACT THE FOOL NOW IS PROOF THAT HUMANS ARE CAPABLE OF ANYTHING.
YOU CAN SEE THINGS BY READING A PERSON'S PALM LINES?
UM...
MAY I READ YOURS?
Giggle
BUT SINCE YOU'RE INJURED I'LL HAVE TO SETTLE FOR JUST YOUR LEFT.
WELL I WOULD'VE PREFERRED READING BOTH YOUR HANDS...

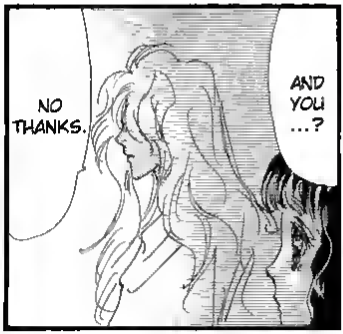
SO THE LEFT SHOWS ONE'S DESTINY FROM BIRTH?
Hmm
THEN WHAT CAN YOU SEE?
WHAT CAN YOU SEE?

AH?


I'M SORRY ...
I GUESS I CAN'T SEE WITH JUST ONE HAND AFTER ALL.
WHEN YOUR INJURY HEALS, PLEASE LET ME READ THEM AGAIN.

AH...
DON'T WORRY, IT'S NOTHING.
Rub Rub
SOMETIMES THIS JUST HAPPENS.

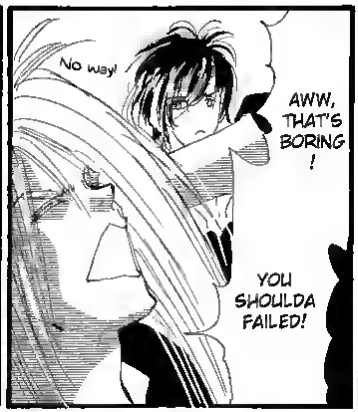
LET'S GIVE IT UP FOR HOTARU-CHAN!
WHOO!
Clap
Clap
KYAH!
Clap
Clap
Clap
Clap

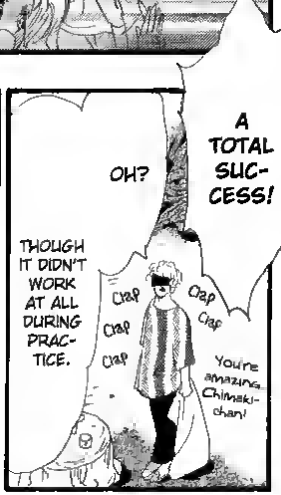

AND YOU ...?
NO THANKS.

OI, CHI-MA-KI!
DON'T THINK YOU CAN GET AWAY!
DON'T WORRY, I'M FINE.
ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE ALL RIGHT?
SO WHO'S LEFT?
YUP!
AW NUTS.
I was hoping you'd for-gotten about me.
READY, SET...
WELL ...
WHEN I THINK OF TALENTS, THIS IS THE ONLY THING THAT COMES TO MIND.
WOAH !
AN HONEST TO GOD TALENT-LIKE TALENT!
IT'S THE WHIP OFF THE TABLE-CLOTH TRICK!

SWOOSH
WOOOAH!
おおおおー

OH YEAH, NATSU!
YOU TRY IT!
EH?!


No way!
AWW, THAT'S BORING!
YOU SHOULDA FAILED!


A TOTAL SUCCESS!
OH?
THOUGH IT DIDN'T WORK AT ALL DURING PRACTICE.
Crap
Crap
Crap
Crap
Crap
You're amazing, Chimaki-chan!

PROVE YOURSELF, NATSU!
IF YOU MANAGE TO PULL IT OFF, THEN THAT'LL BE A REAL PERFORMANCE!

I...
I'LL GIVE IT A GO!
BECAUSE NOW I'M FIRMLY STANDING UPON MY OWN TWO FEET...
AND MY LIFE HAS BEGUN TO CHANGE.
GOOD LUCK, NAT-CHAN!
That's Semi-Maru!
YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO IT, NATSU.
CLAT
TER
HYAH!
I'M GOING TO GRADUATE ...
FROM BEING AN INTROVERT!...
MAYBE EVEN I CAN DO SOMETHING LIKE THIS.
YOU'RE SUCH A KLUTZ, NATSU!
DAH
JUST AS I THOUGHT !!
HA HA HA

SEMIMARU! GIVE IT A REST ALREADY!
HA HA HA
GUESS IT'S IMPOSSIBLE FOR BLOCK-HEADS!
Chimaki is awesome!

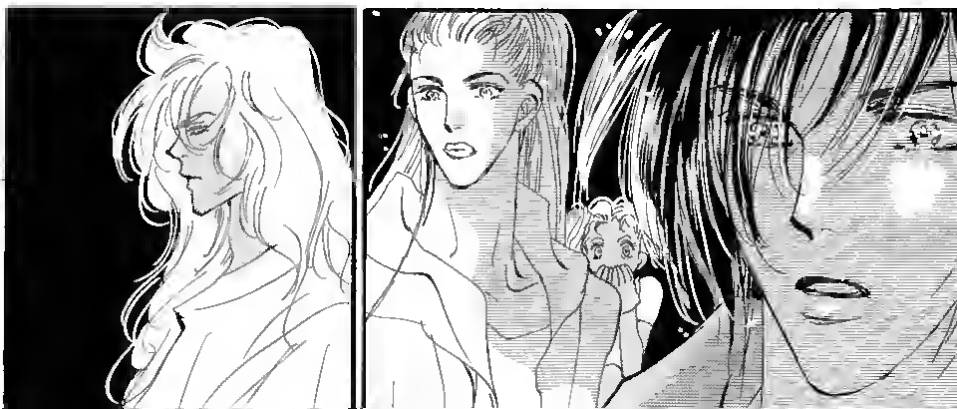
AH HA HA HA
Crap
Crap
Crap
AHH...
Awww, too bad!
I KNEW IT WAS HOPELESS! ...

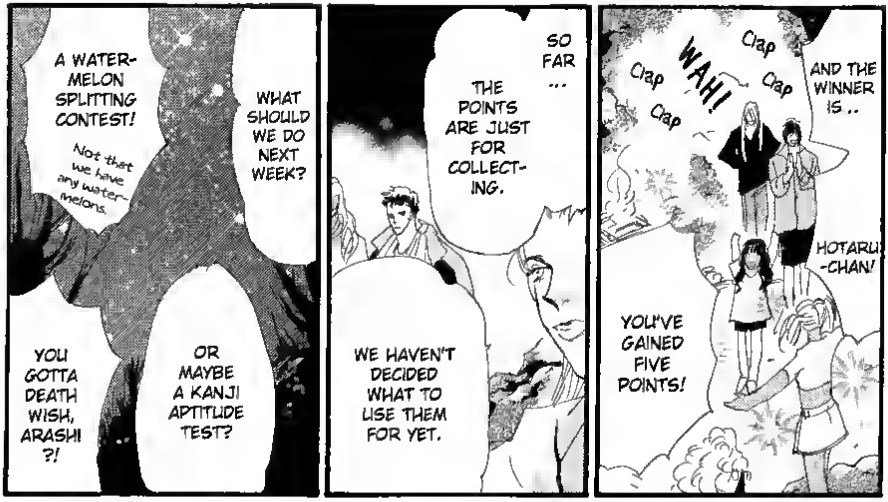
IT'S NOTHING TO BE WORRIED ABOUT.

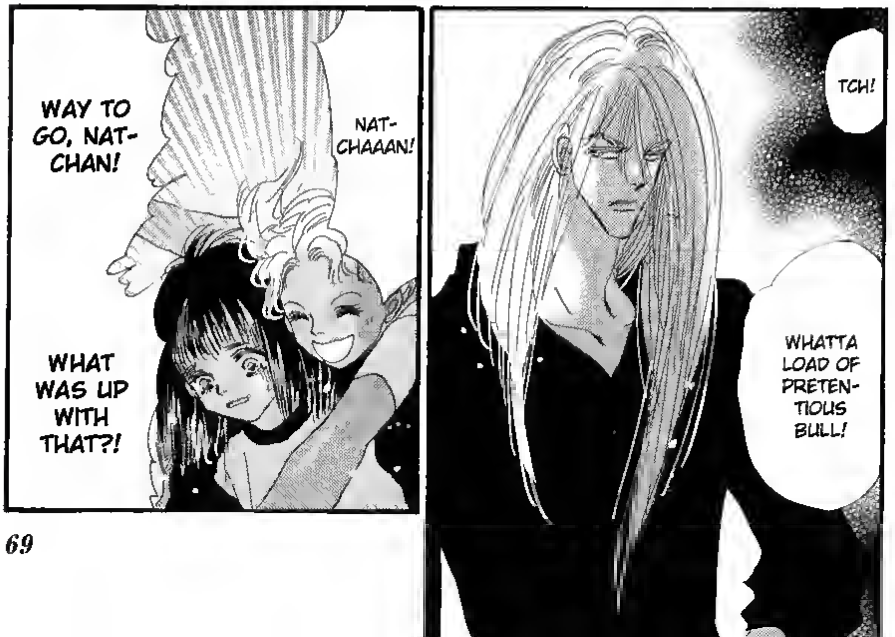
I shouldn't have tried at all!
I'M...
SO EMBA-RASS-ED...

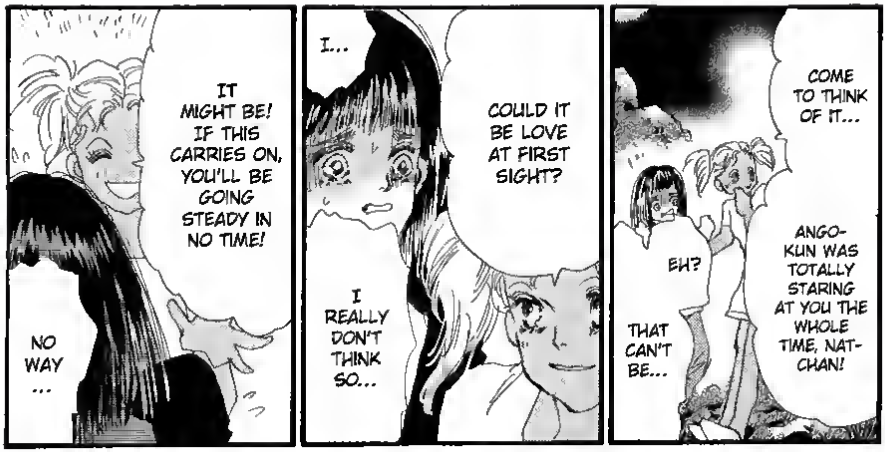
IT ALL COMES DOWN TO THE PULLING SPEED AND ANGLE...
AS WELL AS HOW MUCH FORCE YOU PUT INTO IT.
ANYBODY COULD DO IT WITH ENOUGH EFFORT.

THAT ISN'T SOMETHING WORTH LAUGHING AT.

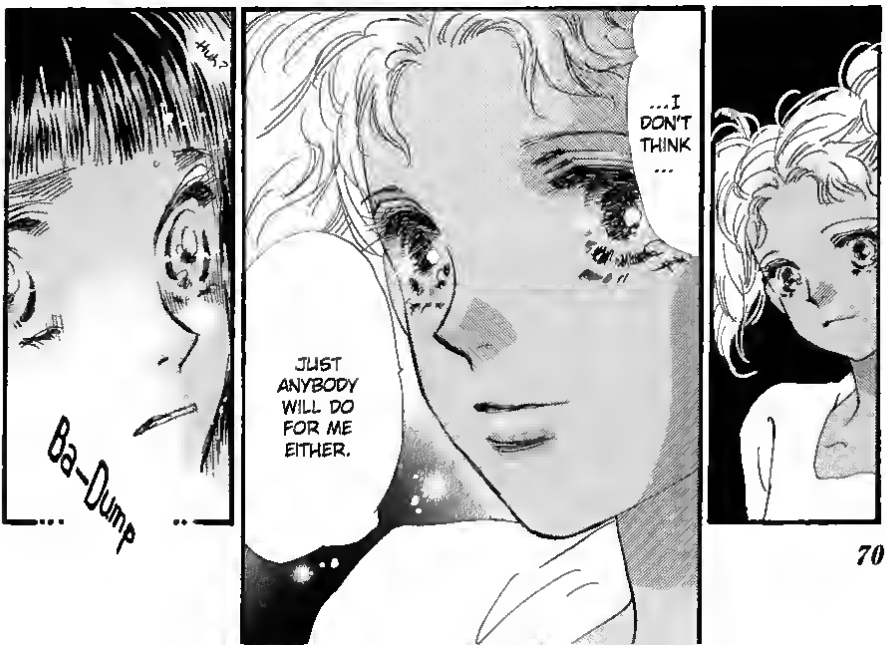



A WATER-MELON SPLITTING CONTEST!
Not that we have any water-melons.
WHAT SHOULD WE DO NEXT WEEK?
YOU GOTTA DEATH WISH, ARASHI ?!
OR MAYBE A KANJI APTITUDE TEST?
SO FAR ...
THE POINTS ARE JUST FOR COLLECT-ING.
WE HAVEN'T DECIDED WHAT TO USE THEM FOR YET.
WAH!
Clap
Clap
Clap
Clap
AND THE WINNER IS ..
HOTARU-CHAN!
YOU'VE GAINED FIVE POINTS!


WAY TO GO, NAT-CHAN!
NAT-CHAAAN!
WHAT WAS UP WITH THAT?!
TCH!
WHATTA LOAD OF PRETEN-TIOUS BULL!


COME TO THINK OF IT...
ANGO-KUN WAS TOTALLY STARING AT YOU THE WHOLE TIME, NAT-CHAN!
EH?
THAT CAN'T BE...
I...
COULD IT BE LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT?
I REALLY DON'T THINK SO...
IT MIGHT BE! IF THIS CARRIES ON, YOU'LL BE GOING STEADY IN NO TIME!
NO WAY ...

AND IT'S...
N-NOT LIKE...
Leer
JUST ANYBODY WILL DO FOR ME.


HUH?
Ba-Dump
...I DON'T THINK ...
JUST ANYBODY WILL DO FOR ME EITHER.

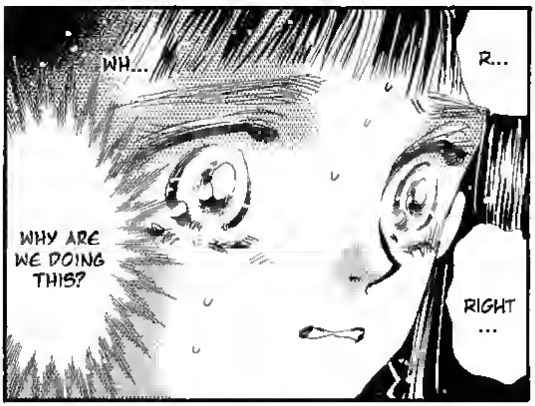
WELL THEN, GUESS I'LL GO FOR RYO-KUN!
BUT MAYBE IT DON'T MATTER IF THEY'RE HOT!
Slap
Slap
GIVE IT YOUR BEST, NAT-CHAN!
HEHEH
Grin
I...
T-THAT WASN'T WHAT I MEANT
Ba-Dump
Ba-Dump
I'M SORRY ...
Ba-Dump
Ba-Dump
MATSURI-CHAN WAS SMILING...
BUT I'VE MADE HER FEEL UNCOM-FORT-ABLE
Ba-Dump
Ba-Dump
Ba-Dump
Your manzai sure was funny!
Good night, Nat-chan!
Keep up the fight!
Ba-Dump
Ba-Dump
BUT WHAT I SAID WAS REALLY RUDE TO MATSURI-CHAN.
Ba-Dump
Ba-Dump
I WAS ONLY THINKING ABOUT MY-SELF WHEN I SAID THAT...

JUST BECOMING A RELIABLE PERSON ISN'T ENOUGH...
MORE, THERE'S SOME-THING MORE I NEED ...
Ba-Dump
Ba-Dump
IT'S SO HARD ...
IT'S SO HARD TO TALK TO PEOPLE ...
Ba-Dump
Ba-Dump
Ba-Dump
I DON'T WANT MATSURI-CHAN TO HATE ME!
MAYBE SHE HATES ME NOW!
DO I NEED?
JUST WHAT...
SHAAA
ARE YOU GOING TO PRAC-TISE?
OI...

SHAAAAA
THERE'S SOMETHING I COULDN'T BRING MYSELF TO ASK EVEN THOUGH I WANTED TO...
Y'KNOW...
SHAA
HOTARU REALLY HAD ME GOING!
Even though I didn't believe in fortune-telling at all
HA HA
SHAA
SHAA
AM I GONNA LIVE A LONG LIFE?
LIKE WHO'S GONNA LIVE LONG AND WHO'S...
GONNA DIE EARLY?
I WONDER IF SHE REALLY CAN...
SEE THAT STUFF...
THAT'S JUST SCARY!
That sorta thing
SHAAA
SHAA

WILL I BE ABLE TO SEE HANA AGAIN?
WHEN WILL I BE ABLE TO SEE HER?
I...
COULD'T BRING MYSELF TO ASK EITHER ...
AND WHERE ...?
SHAAA
SHAAA
HUH?
SHAAA
Guess there ain't nothin' we can do about it
Exhale
SHALL WE HIT THE SACK?
NATSU?

YOU MUSTN'T GET NERVOUS.
YOUR HESITANCE AND LACK OF COURAGE...
IS WHAT'S CAUSING YOUR STRENGTH TO FAIL YOU.


WH...
R...
WHY ARE WE DOING THIS?
RIGHT ...

PROVE TO YOURSELF ...
THAT YOU REALLY CAN DO IT.

IS HE TRYING TO MAKE A MOVE ON HER ?!
THAT BASTARD!

7 SEEDS

Chapter 89

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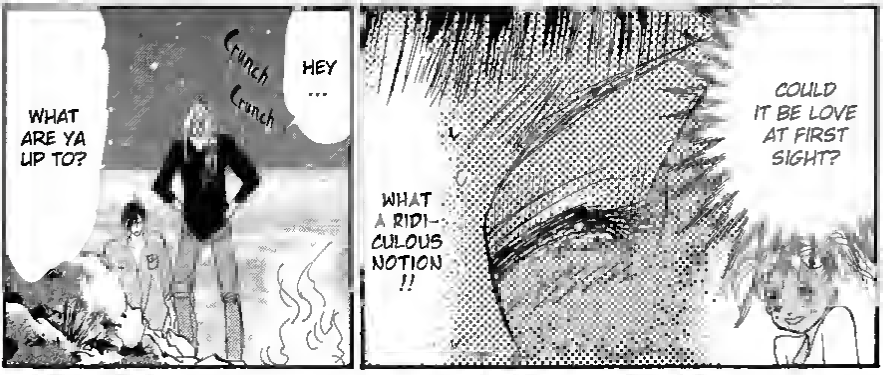
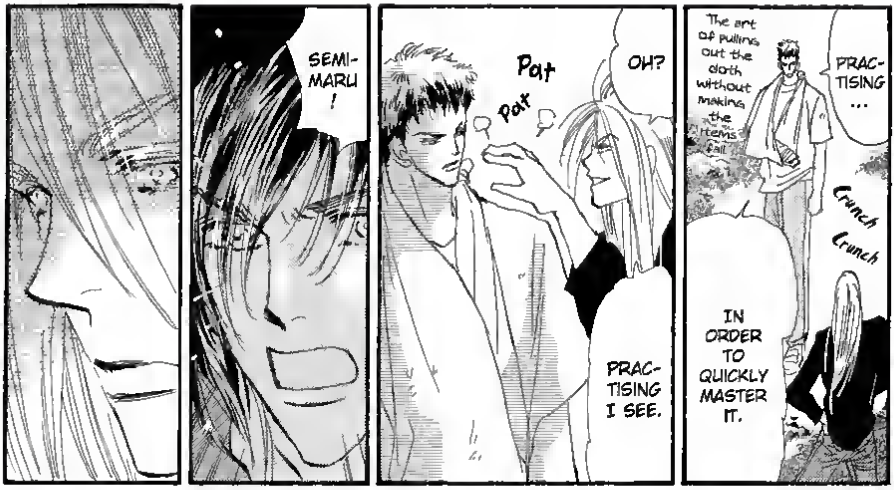
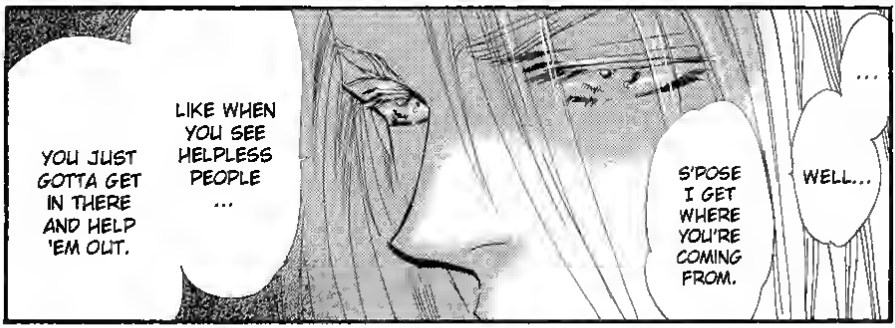
MINOR HEAT
CHAPTER 4
[—LOOK UP AT THE STARS IN THE NIGHT—]
Hey now!
SEMI-MARU!
ANGO, THAT BAS-TARD!
I THINK HE NEEDS A TASTE OF MY FIST!
I'LL HAVE HIM KNOW NOT TO TOUCH OUR WOMEN!

HAVE YOU GOT IT?
DON'T BE AFRAID, YOU'LL GET IT RIGHT IF YOU FOCUS AND STAY CALM.
R...
RIGHT.
IN THE FIRST PLACE, WHY DO YOU KEEP QUIET ...
WHEN SEMIMARU HITS AND YELLS AT YOU,
AND MAKES SUCH A FOOL OF YOU LIKE THAT?
And the others don't say a thing either.
UM...
NO...
THAT WAS JUST PART OF OUR MANZAI ACT...
IT'S NOT LIKE HE ALWAYS HITS ME ...
You're meant to get beaten.

S-SOMETIMES HE CAN BE NICE...
W-WHY IS THIS PERSON SO KIND TO ME?!


COULD IT BE LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT?
WHAT A RIDI-CULOUS NOTION !!
HEY ...
Crunch Crunch
WHAT ARE YA UP TO?


SEMI-MARU!
Pat pat
OH?
PRAC-TISING I SEE.
The art of pulling out the cloth without making the items fall
PRAC-TISING...
Crunch Crunch
IN ORDER TO QUICKLY MASTER IT.


YOU JUST GOTTA GET IN THERE AND HELP 'EM OUT.
LIKE WHEN YOU SEE HELPLESS PEOPLE ...
S'POSE I GET WHERE YOU'RE COMING FROM.
WELL...
...

Well sorry for butting in!
BY THE WAY, IS THAT WHITE HAIR SOME SORTA FASHION STATEMENT?
PRETTY COOL, KINDA LIKE A MUSICIAN!
I'LL LEAVE HER TO YOU!
A PRETTY DECENT GUY.
SLAP
YOU'RE ...

WHEN I CHECKED OUT HIS SHOULDERS...
THEY WERE RIPPLING WITH MUSCLES.
SO YOU CAN HANDLE THINGS LIKE AN ADULT, SEMI-MARU.
Crunch
Crunch
...
Crunch
Crunch
?
What does he mean leave me to him?
I can't leave unless I master this?
I WOULDA GOT MY ARSE WHOOPED!
I don't fight losing battles!
While I was at it I made sure to butter him up too
Ha ha!
So that's what it was?

ANYWAY, THE ONE AT FAULT HERE IS NATSU!
THAT MORON'LL FALL HEAD OVER HEELS FOR ANYONE WHO'LL SHOW HER EVEN THE SLIGHTEST BIT OF KINDNESS!
COURSE I KNEW SHE WAS THAT KINDA GIRL FROM THE START, BUT STILL!

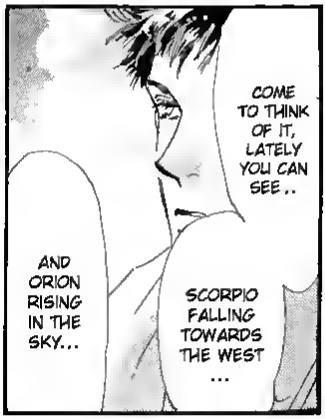
YEAH, WHAT ?!
Oh. It's nothing!
WIPE THAT GRIN OFF YER FACE!
You're creeping me out!
SHAAA
SHAAAA
RYOOOO-KUN!
LEFT-HANDERS ARE PRETTY COOL, HUH?
OH, SO YOU'RE A LEFTIE, RYO-KUN!

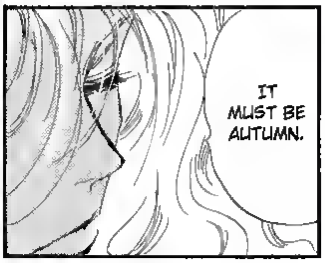
AND ANGO-KUN'S TOO.
WHEN'S YOUR BIRTHDAY, RYO-KUN?
YOU GOTTA TELL US SO WE CAN THROW YOU A SURPRISE PARTY.
AH!
THAT'S RIGHT!
Crunch
Crunch
BEING PUSHY IS A NO-NO!
I'LL SHOW OFF MY CHARM LITTLE BY LITTLE
Well see ya later!
Turn
BIRTH...
DAY...?
WHAT'S WRONG?
Crunch
Crunch
GUESS THERE'RE PEOPLE WHO DON'T LIKE TALKING ABOUT THEIR PERSONAL INFO.
Squeeze
WELL AT LEAST I GOT THAT MUCH OUTTA HIM!
GOT-CHA!
See ya later sorry for being a bother!
THANK YOU!
!!!!
BOTH ANGO AND I.
IT SEEMS WE WERE BORN IN AUGUST,
Ah!
OR MAYBE A VIRGO?
SO YOU'RE A LEO?
OHH...

THAT STUFF IS GROUND-LESS.
IS THAT WHAT THEY CALL ASTRO-LOGY?
IT SEEMS WE'RE LEOS.
Chuckle
Complete nonsense
YOU CAN'T EVEN SEE LEO DURING AUGUST.
In the night sky

I can't really wring it properly so it's soaking wet.
I DON'T KNOW THE DAY.
It'll dry soon though.
BUT WHEN-EVER SUMMER ENDED ...
EVERYONE ALWAYS KNEW THEY'D TURNED A YEAR OLDER.
Everyone was born sometime in August
Except I don't suit my summer kiga*

*NOTE: Ango's name means "a calm and firm existence". It also stands for a Buddhist meditation retreat known as "Yarsika"





THE SELECTION TEST BEGAN AFTER WE TURNED 17...
IN ORDER TO BE ON TOP...
ALL WE EVER FOCUSED ON WAS THAT...
BE-CAUSE...
ARASHI LOVES TO SWIM.
HE'S BEEN TRYING TO BUILD CHAIRS WITH THAT STUFF...
PLUS HES ALWAYS PICKING THINGS UP.
AS WELL AS ANYTHING ELSE THAT COULD BE USED FOR OUR CONVE-NIENCE.
ARASHI...
IS ALWAYS SWIM-MING.
Are you going to dry this?
YET IT WAS OVER BEFORE WE KNEW IT.
NOW WE'VE TURNED 18...
BUT SHIGERU WILL BE 17 FOR-EVER...
Splish
Splash
Splash

I'M NOT SURE IF HE WAS TRULY SERIOUS ABOUT IT OR NOT...
It was probably just a far off dream.
Ta Ta
BUT HE WANTED TO COMPETE IN THE OLYMPICS.
OH?
Ruffle
Ruffle
OH MY.
Splish
Splash

Nah!
NO, I HAVEN'T.
I SIMPLY DID IT AS PART OF MY TRAINING ROUTINE.
MORE OR LESS.
HAVE YOU EVER COMPETED IN TOURNAMENTS?
Splish
Splash
YOU SURE KNOW HOW TO HOLD YOUR BREATH!
ARE YOU USED TO SWIMMING?
And diving, too?
Splish
Splash
THIS ENTIRE AREA IS A SHOAL.
IT MUST'VE BEEN LAND BEFORE IT WAS BURIED UNDERWATER.
Prosaic

I'M ...
NOT ABOUT TO LOSE TO YOU TOO.

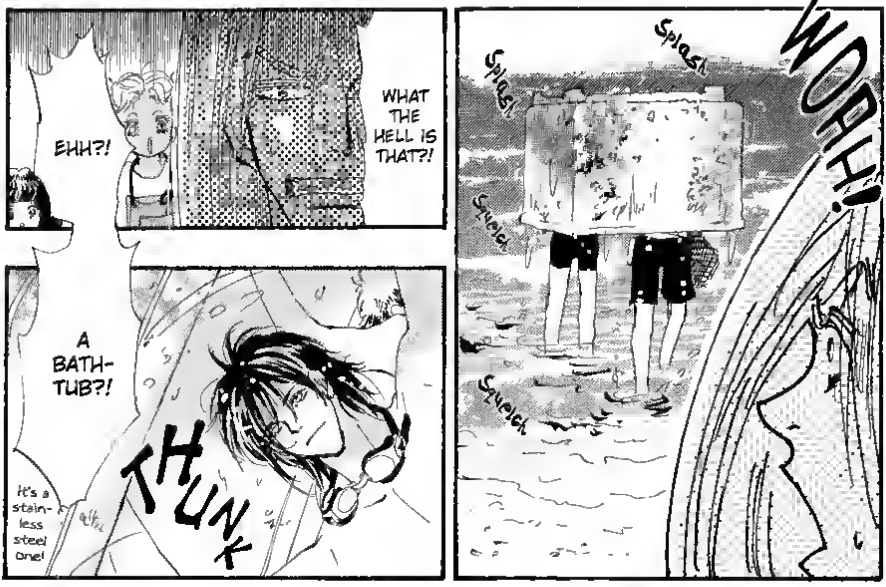
NO ONE COULD MATCH MY SPEED.

EVEN AT HIGH TIDE...
DOES THE SHIP STAY SLANTED AND IMMOBILE?
WANNA TAKE A LOOK?

Splash
Splash

WE SHOULD HAVE A RACE ONCE YOUR HAND HAS HEALED.
It's harder to swim in the sea though.
Are you blood type AB?
I'm glad, and can't wait!
Splash
Splash

IT'S COMPLETELY SANDWICHED BETWEEN THE ROCKS ON ALL SIDES.
IF WE DON'T GET RID OF AT LEAST TWO OR THREE OF THE ONES OVER HERE...
THEN ALTHOUGH THE SHIP FLOATS, IT WON'T EVER BUDGE.
BUT IF I CHIP AWAY AT THEM A LITTLE EVERY-DAY...
MAYBE SOMEDAY THEY'LL BREAK.
CLUNK CLUNK
It's really hard.


EHH?!
WHAT THE HELL IS THAT?!
A BATH-TUB?!
THUNK
It's a stain-less steel one!
WOAH!
Splash
Splash
Squelch
Squelch

IT MIGHT BE USABLE IF WE POLISH IT UP.
Wow, it's so weird!
KYA HA HA HA HA HA
WE WANTED ONE FOR THE SHIP, RIGHT?
Ohh!
ANGO-SAN LENT ME A HAND.

I MANAGED TO GET YOU MORE OF THIS STUFF TOO.
MA-TSU-RI,
YIPPEE! MORE SEA SPONGE!!

HAVE YOU BEEN THINKING ABOUT THAT?
The water problem
OF COURSE.

I WAS SEARCHING FOR CONTAINERS TO STORE WATER IN.
THE SEA IS FULL OF STUFF LIKE THIS.

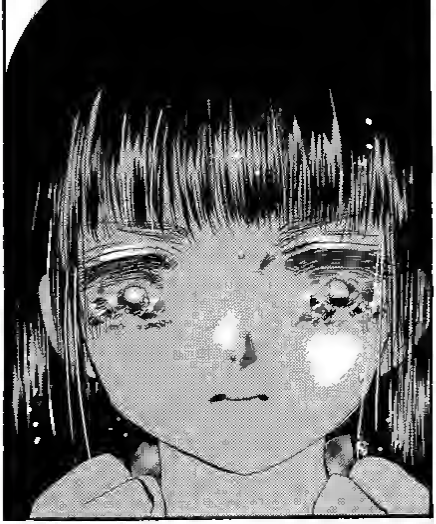
I'LL RINSE AND DRY IT.
I'll scrub myself over and over until I'm squeaky clean!
I JUST LOVE THIS STUFF.
NATURE'S OWN POOFY SPONGE! ♡
AND THIS TIME ROUND ...
Clatter Clatter
THIS WAS THE BONUS FIND.
IT DOESN'T SOUND LIKE ANY WATER GOT INSIDE.
KRR KRR
OOOOH?
CRACK
JANGLE
WOO
OOO
OOO
OAH!

*NOTE: "*Ellie, My Love*" (1979) is a song by the Japanese pop/rock band Southern All Stars and was covered by Ray Charles in 1989. "*My Way*" (1967) is based on the French song *Comme d'habitude* and was popularised by Frank Sinatra in 1969.

IT'S...
CHOPIN'S "SONG OF FAREWELL*".
HEY, HEY, WHAT WAS THIS AGAIN?
THIS TUNE...
I THINK IT'S CLASSICAL OR SOMETHING...
TINK
TONK
TINK
SO I GUESS "LONG LIVE ANALOGUE!" IS ABOUT RIGHT.
IF WE'D FOUND CASSETTE TAPES OR CDS, WE WOULD'VE HAD NO WAY TO LISTEN TO THEM...
BUT SINCE THEY'RE MUSIC BOXES WE CAN.
DAMN IT!
SONGS LIKE "ELLIE, MY LOVE" ...
ALWAYS GET MY TEARS GOING.
Oh, really?
OH, SO THAT'S WHAT IT WAS!
YOU KNOW ALL ABOUT MUSIC TOO, ANGO-KUN?
KYOH!
CHOPIN, I SEE!
You're amazing!

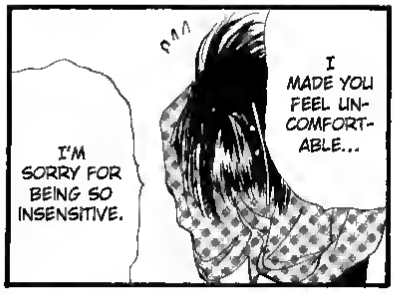
*NOTE: Refer to chapter 40.

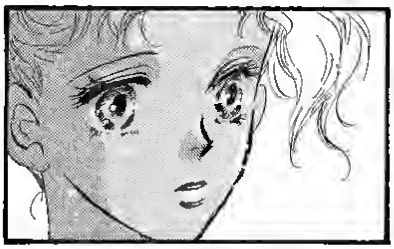
I kinda feel like squealing!
YAY!
YAY!
Let's play Old Maid later!
Ah! Chimaki-chan, lookie, lookie!
What's all the fuss?
YOU'RE COMPLETELY ADDICTED TO BEACH-COMBING NOW.
WHAT WAS THAT?
IS THAT A CORK?
IT MIGHT FIT WITH ONE OF THESE BOTTLES.
Clink
THE FLOTSAM DRIFTS FROM PLACE TO PLACE...
This place could become an excavation site.
COMING FROM ALL AROUND THE WORLD, AND FINALLY GATHERS ALONG THE SHORE.
...
FROM AROUND ...
THE WORLD ?
EVERY-THING ...
IS CONNECTED BY THE OCEAN.
SHHH
SHHH



BE BRAVE, NATSU!

BE BRAVE!

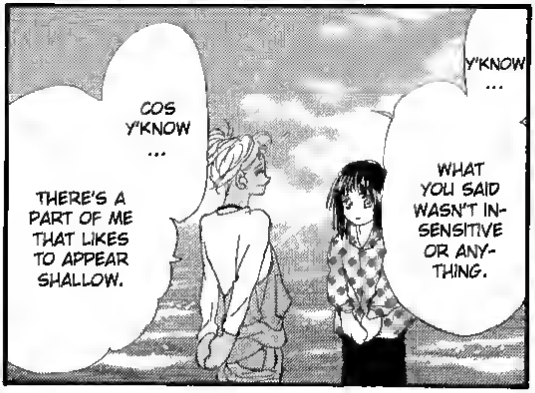

I MADE YOU FEEL UNCOMFORTABLE...
I'M SORRY FOR BEING SO INSENSITIVE.

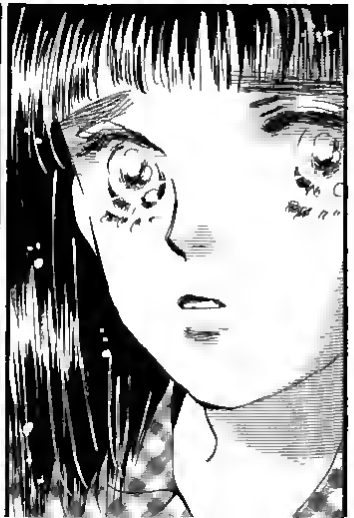


I'M SURE DEEP DOWN, A SMALL PART OF ME REALLY DID THINK THAT ANYBODY WOULD DO FOR MATSURI-CHAN.
I'M A HORRIBLE PERSON.
I PRETTY MUCH CALLED HER A FLIRT.

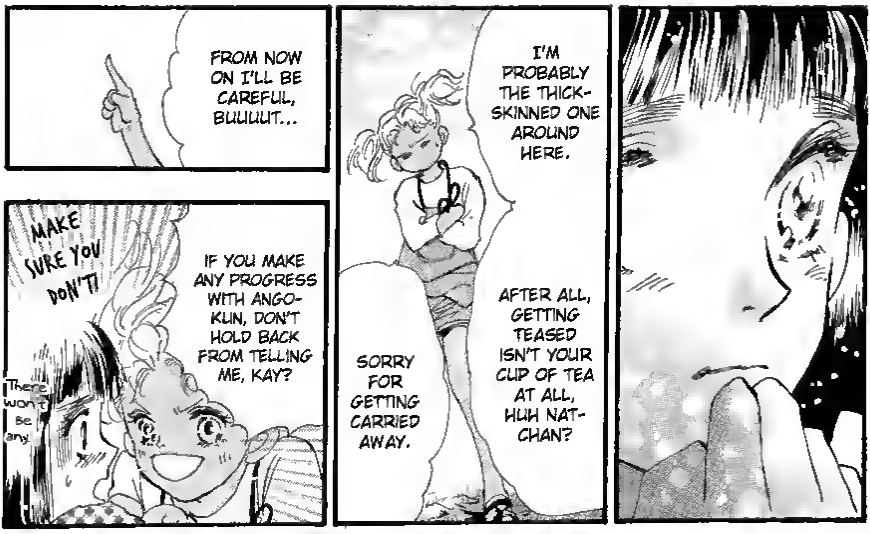
UM.. FOR WHAT?
WHEN I SAID NOT JUST ANYBODY WOULD DO FOR ME...

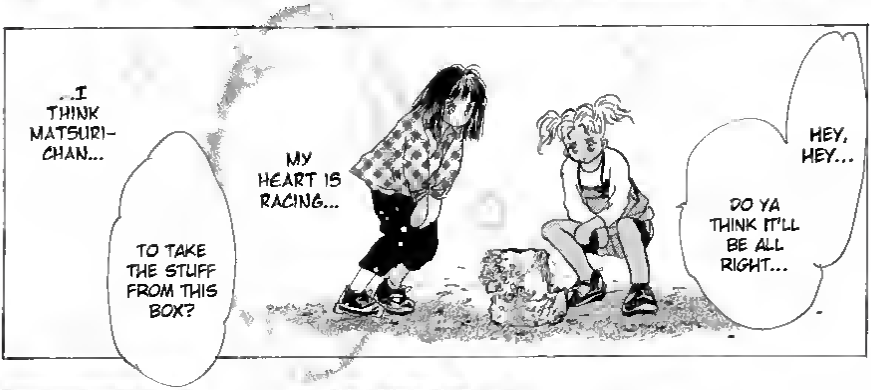
NO ONE HAS EVER APOLOGISED TO ME LIKE THAT BEFORE.
Have you been thinking about that all this time?
THANK YOU.


THERE'S A PART OF ME THAT LIKES TO APPEAR SHALLOW.
COS Y'KNOW ...
WHAT YOU SAID WASN'T INSENSITIVE OR ANYTHING.
Y'KNOW ...



BUT EVEN THOUGH I WANNA TAKE THINGS LIGHTLY...
I STILL FEEL A LITTLE SAD WHEN PEOPLE LABEL ME THAT WAY.
GUESS I'M JUST SPOILT.
..YOU WANT...
TO APPEAR SHALLOW ..?
COS SOMETIMES IT'S JUST EASIER...
TO LIVE LIFE THAT WAY, YEAH?
I SEE...
THAT'S SOMETHING I OVER-LOOKED.
SOMETIMES YOU HAVE TO BE THAT WAY IN ORDER TO GET ALONG WITH PEOPLE ...
BUT ...
I SEE ...
I DON'T NEED TO ACT THAT WAY AROUND YOU...
RIGHT, NAT-CHAN ?


FROM NOW ON I'LL BE CAREFUL, BUUUUT...
I'M PROBABLY THE THICK-SKINNED ONE AROUND HERE.
AFTER ALL, GETTING TEASED ISN'T YOUR CUP OF TEA AT ALL, HUH NAT-CHAN?
SORRY FOR GETTING CARRIED AWAY.
MAKE SURE YOU DON'T!
IF YOU MAKE ANY PROGRESS WITH ANGO-KUN, DON'T HOLD BACK FROM TELLING ME, KAY?
There won't be any!


...I THINK MATSURI-CHAN...
TO TAKE THE STUFF FROM THIS BOX?
MY HEART IS RACING...
HEY, HEY...
DO YA THINK IT'LL BE ALL RIGHT...

OI, NATSU ...
LET'S PRAC-TISE.
KYAHHH!
How asser-tive!
I THINK IT'LL BE FINE.
I'M SO GLAD...
I WAS ABLE TO BE BRAVE.
THEY USED TO BELONG TO SOME-ONE...
SHARED SOMETHING VERY IMPORTANT WITH ME.
BUT IT'LL BE OKAY, RIGHT?
I really want these beads.

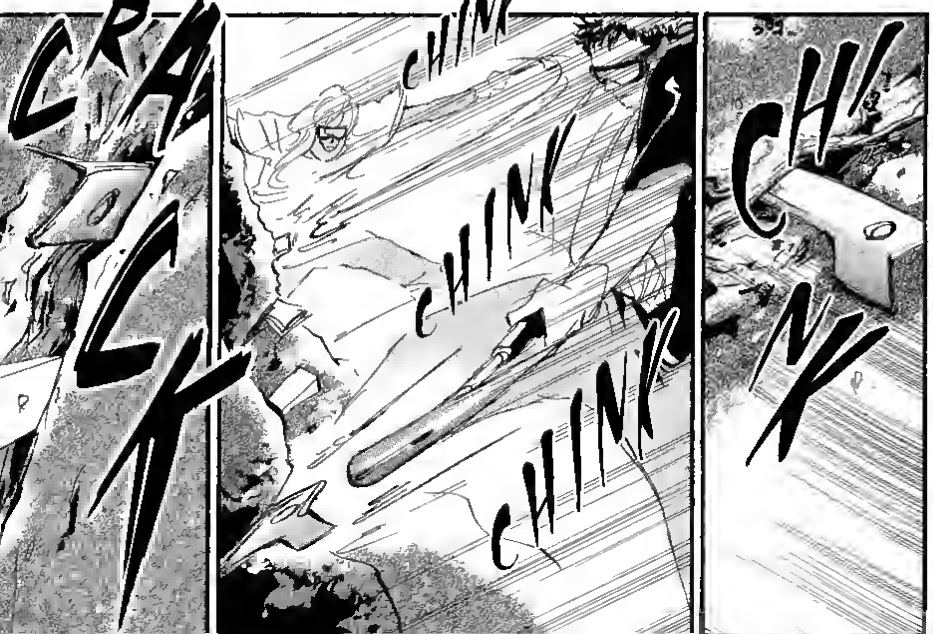
And I can't do it at all!
EEK!
AH...
UM...
HUH?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
DID YOU PASS THE TEST...
IN ORDER TO COME HERE?
DID YOU...
PASS THE TEST?
How long is this going to continue?
And why? Why?
SCATTER
I WAS THINKING...
THAT IF THERE'S ENOUGH GUNPOWDER IN THIS...
WE COULD USE IT TO BREAK THE ROCKS BLOCKING THE SHIP.
Just one side will do.
WHAT'S UP?
A BULLET?
thup

SHALL WE GIVE IT A GO?
HMM...
THEN IF WE DRIVE IN A PITON OR WEDGE...
THE BEST WE CAN DO IS PUT A HAIRLINE FRACTURE INTO THE ROCK...
IT'LL BE STUPID IF WE PUT A HOLE IN THE SHIP.
EVEN IF WE BLOW APART THE ROCKS ...
KNOCK
KNOCK
WELL SOME-WHERE AROUND THIS AREA.
Knock
Knock
Knock
THIS SHOULD BE THE BEST SPOT FOR FRACTUR-ING THE ROCK.
CHINK
CHINK
CHINK

STAND BACK.
Twist
Twist
Push
Push
CHINK
BOOM

AHH, LOOKS LIKE A CLEAN FRAC-TURE.
Just a small one.
THEN I'LL TAKE CARE OF THIS ONE.
Crumble
Crumble
Crumble
HUH?
WHAT THE?!
WHAT WAS THAT JUST NOW?!

WHAT ARE THEY DOING ?!
WHAT ?!
WHAT IS IT?!
HUH?!
WOOM


CRACK
CHINK
CHINK
CHINK
CHINK

CRUNCH
WOOOOOOOAH

THE ROCKS HAVE ...
NO WAAAAY !!
WAIT FOR HIGH TIDE.
IF THE SHIP'S STILL STUCK, WE'LL SHAVE A BIT MORE OFF.
From now on, make sure you anchor the ship properly.
THEN IF THE WIND PERMITS, WE'LL BE ABLE TO SET SAIL.
OOOOOOH

WOOOOOOOW!!
PLUS IT'LL BE DANGEROUS TO CARRY AROUND WHENEVER THE HUMIDITY IS LOW ...
WELL NO...
THAT ISN'T SOMETHING THAT JUST ANYBODY CAN HANDLE.
These got a bit crushed
DON'T YOU?
DO YOU TWO HAVE GUNPOWDER ON YOU?
IN AWE
WOO-HOO! NOW LET'S EAT!
THE SHIP'S STRAIGHTENING UP!
It's High-tide!
LOOKIE, LOOKIE!
SHAA

WHERE WERE YOU...
INTENDING TO GO WITH THE SHIP?
Dig in, dig in!
Course it's just crab again.
WE WERE HOPING TO CIRCUM-NAVIGATE ...
THE WHOLE OF JAPAN.
WE WERE TRYING TO GO RIGHT ROUND FROM END TO END...
AND WE THOUGHT MAYBE WE'D RUN INTO SOMEONE ALONG THE WAY.
Since we've managed to meet a few already
SURVEY-ING THE ENTIRE COUNTRY ...
GIVES US THE OPPORTUNITY TO DRAW UP A MAP TOO.
Using cloth to make a picture scroll
CHIMAKI-SAN HAS BEEN PAINTING IT FOR US.
... SHALL WE...
FINISH WHAT YOU STARTED?
LET'S SET SAIL.
THAT'S A GREAT IDEA!
YAY!
YEAH, I WAS JUST ABOUT SICK OF THIS PLACE ANYWAY!
OKAY!

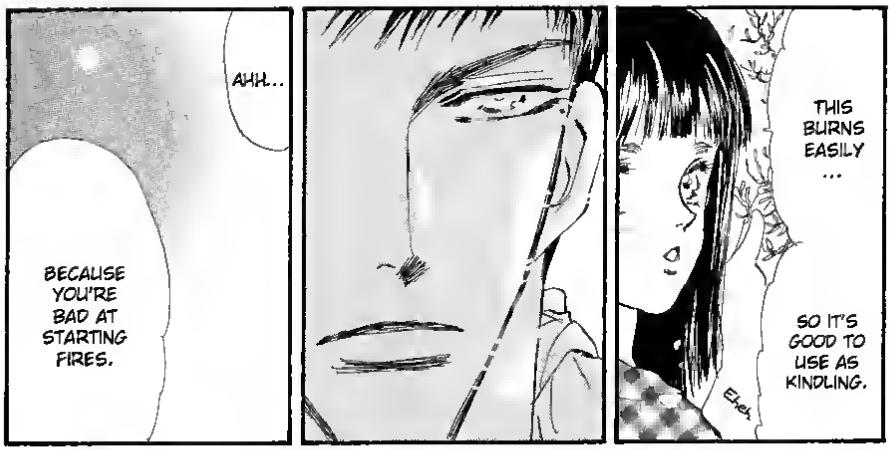
HAVING SEA SPONGES IS A MUST!
NAT-CHAN, LIFE ON THE OPEN SEA MEANS ...
We'll use them to wash our selves.
WE CAN EVEN WIPE OUR BUMS WITH THEM!
Eww
KYAAH!
ALL RIGHT!
EVERYONE, LET'S DO OUR BEST!
YAY!
KYAAAH!
WE'VE GOT A LOTTA STUFF TO SORT OUT NOW!
I WAS SURE WE'D BE STUCK HERE UNTIL THAT GEEZER TURNED UP AGAIN.
Man
AS WELL AS FIXING UP THE SHIP!
LIKE GETTING WATER, FOOD AND FIREWOOD ...

JUST BY HAVING THESE TWO WITH US...
HOW STRANGE ...
IT FEELS AS IF THINGS ARE START-ING TO MOVE FORWARD.

HAVE YOU BEEN TAKING DOWN NOTES?
UM ...
EH?
YES...

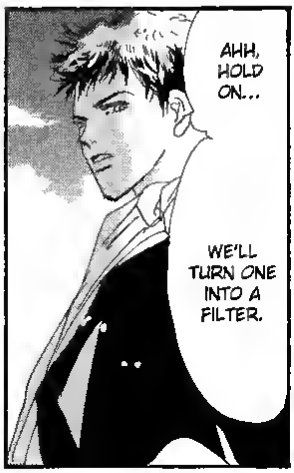
UM ...
I'M SURE THIS LEAF WAS THE ONE.

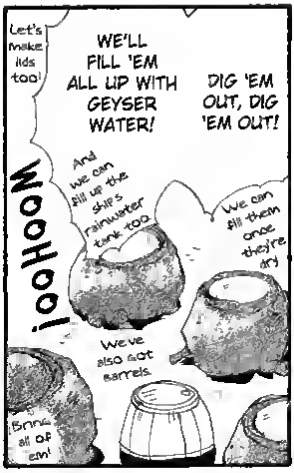
MY HEART JUST WON'T STOP RACING.
I'LL DO MY BEST TOO!

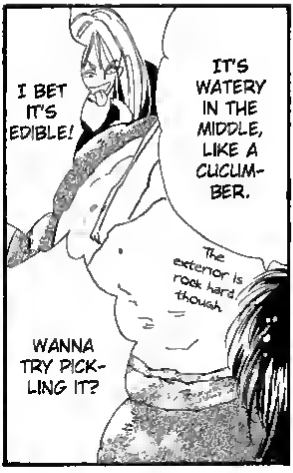

AHH..
BECAUSE YOU'RE BAD AT STARTING FIRES.
THIS BURNS EASILY ...
SO IT'S GOOD TO USE AS KINDLING.
Ehehe

WHAT DO I DO, ANGO?
I GET NOTHING BUT SMOKE!

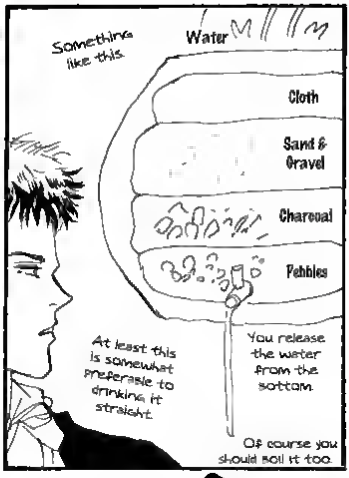
AH! ANGO-SAN.
IF WE DIG OUT THE CENTRE OF THIS, DO YOU THINK WE COULD USE IT TO HOLD WATER?
HUH?
How did he know?


AHH, HOLD ON...
WE'LL TURN ONE INTO A FILTER.

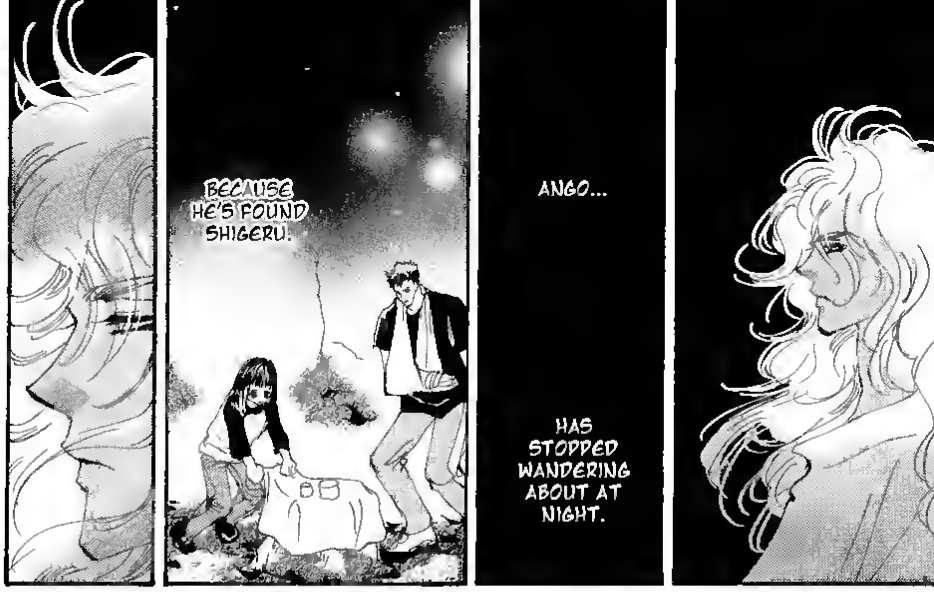

Let's make lids too!
WE'LL FILL 'EM ALL UP WITH GEYSER WATER!
DIG 'EM OUT, DIG 'EM OUT!
WooHoo!
And we can fill up the ship's rainwater tank too.
We can fill them once they're dry.
We've also got barrels.
Bring all of em!


I BET IT'S EDIBLE!
IT'S WATERY IN THE MIDDLE, LIKE A CUCUMBER.
The exterior is rock hard though.
WANNA TRY PICKLING IT?

YOU'RE AMAZING, ANGO!
YOU GOT TOP PLACE AGAIN!
YOU'LL DEFINITELY BE CHOSEN, ANGO.

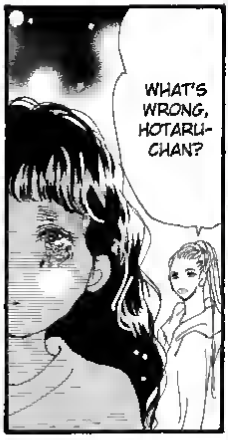

Something like this
Water
Cloth
Sand & Gravel
Charcoal
Pebbles
At least this is somewhat preferable to drinking it straight
You release the water from the bottom
Of course you should boil it too

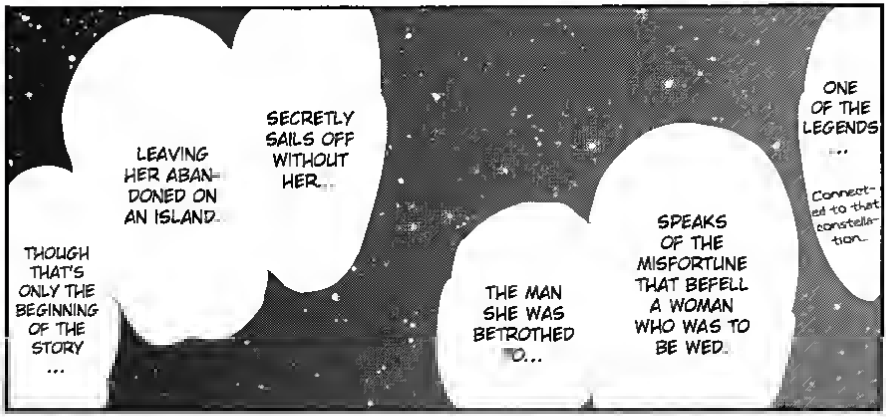
WOOOOOOW!!
You must be joking
What have you been doing till now?


BECAUSE HE'S FOUND SHIGERU.
ANGO...
HAS STOPPED WANDERING ABOUT AT NIGHT.

ANGO ...
THAT'S NOT SHIGERU, ANGO.
THAT'S NOT SHIGERU.

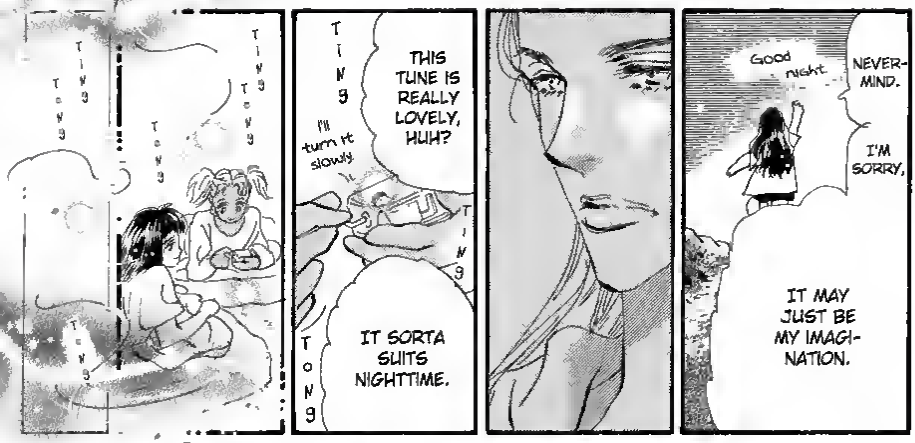
FOR SOME ODD REASON...
I CAN'T HELP NOTICING CORONA BOREALIS.


WHAT'S WRONG, HOTARU-CHAN?


ONE OF THE LEGENDS...
Connected to that constellation.
SPEAKS OF THE MISFORTUNE THAT BEFELL A WOMAN WHO WAS TO BE WED.
THE MAN SHE WAS BETROTHED TO...
SECRETLY SAILS OFF WITHOUT HER...
LEAVING HER ABANDONED ON AN ISLAND.
THOUGH THAT'S ONLY THE BEGINNING OF THE STORY...

...HMM...
The rest of the story isn't sad though.
...I WOULDN'T SAY MISFORTUNE...
WHAT COULD IT BE...?

DO YOU FEEL...
THAT SAILING WITH THOSE TWO...
WILL BRING ABOUT MISFORTUNE?


TING TONG
TING TONG
TING TONG
TING TONG
TING TONG
THIS TUNE IS REALLY LOVELY, HUH?
I'll turn it slowly...
IT SORTA SUITS NIGHTTIME.
Good night...
NEVER-MIND.
I'M SORRY,
IT MAY JUST BE MY IMAGI-NATION.

FROM SOMEWHERE FAR AWAY...

I ALREADY KNOW...
I CAN HEAR CHOPIN'S "SONG OF FAREWELL" DRIFTING ON THE WIND.
THAT IT HAS BEGUN.

THE TEST HAS BEGUN.
YEAH...
THAT'S RIGHT, ANGO.
TEAM SUMMER B'S TEST HAS BEGUN.

7 SEEDS

Chapter 90

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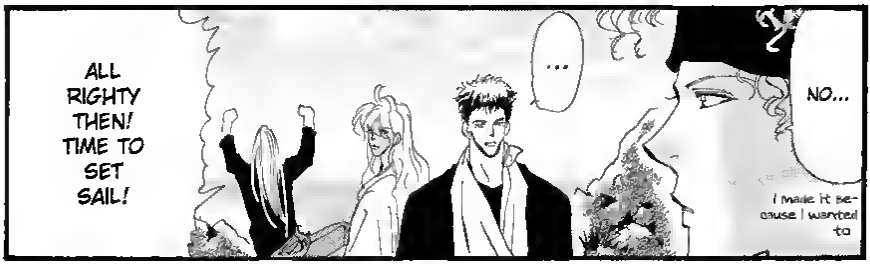
MINOR HEAT
CHAPTER 5
[— A GOOD DAY FOR DEPARTURE —]
NOTE Named after Yamaguchi Mao's 24th single "Ii Hi Tabidachi" released in 1978
TEAM SUMMER B'S TEST HAS BEGUN.

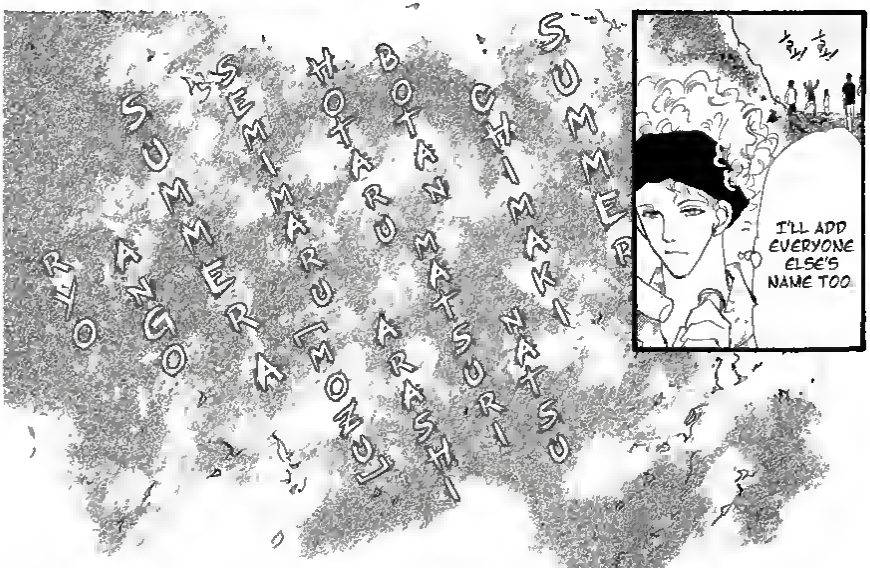
SWOOSH
SPLISH
SPLASH
HAA
HAA
SPLISH
HAA
HAA
SPLASH
HAA
HAA
THE SHIP ...
WHERE'S THE SHIP?!

CHIMAKI
WOOOO OOAH!
Clap Clap
Clap Clap Clap
WHOO! WHOO!
CHIMAKI

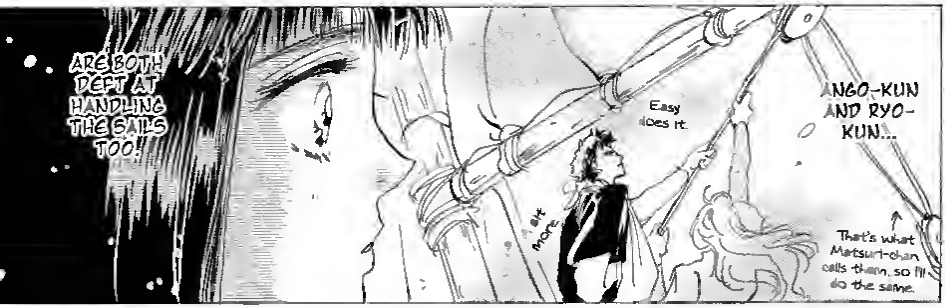
*NOTE: A large and extremely well-fortified hilltop castle in Kumamoto. It's considered to be one of Japan's premier castles along with Himeji Castle and Matsumoto Castle.

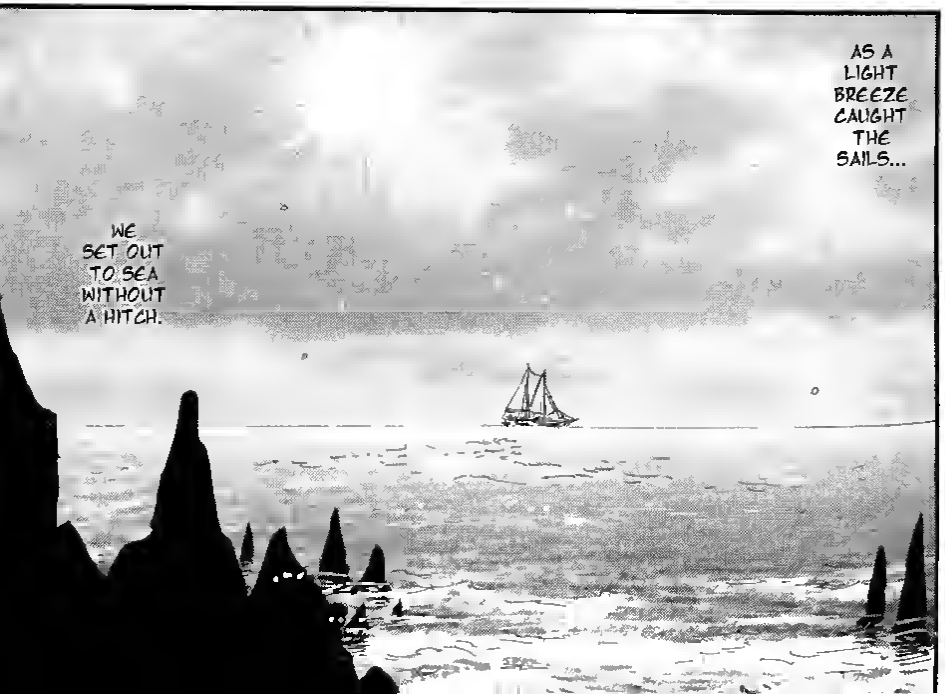
...AHH...
SO THAT'S WHY YOU MADE IT?
IT'LL BE GREAT...
IF SOMEONE WERE TO CHANCE UPON THIS.
I ONLY MANAGED TO GET HALF OF IT DONE...
I wanted to paint it too
THAT'S KUMAMOTO CASTLE*, RIGHT, CHIMAKI-CHAN?
Clap Clap
What a shame





No one's there, but I'll wave goodbye anyway!
THE SHIP SLOWLY DEPARTED.


ARE BOTH DEPT AT HANDLING THE SAILS TOO!!
Easy does it.
A bit more.
ANGO-KUN AND RYO-KUN...
That's what Matsuri-chan calls them, so I'll do the same.


AS A LIGHT BREEZE CAUGHT THE SAILS...
WE SET OUT TO SEA WITHOUT A HITCH.

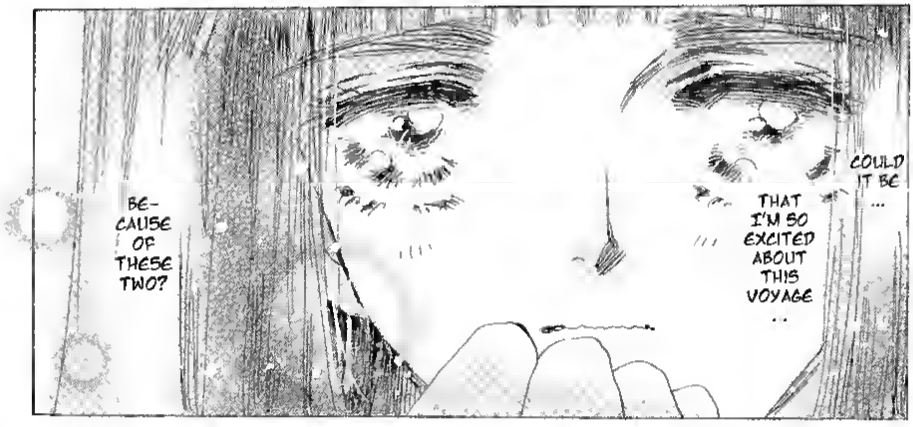
THAT'S QUITE A HANDY SKILL YOU'VE GOT THERE.
Ohhh!
Wow
I'm the helmsman!
WE'RE GRATEFUL FOR IT.
WE DID SOME SAILING ...
AS PART OF OUR TRAIN-ING.
THOUGH IT WAS UPON A MUCH LARGER SHIP.
WERE YOU TWO PART OF A YACHT CLUB AS WELL?
SO IT WAS A HICK SCHOOL ALONG THE COAST.
HEH HEH HEH HEH
THEY DID SOME SAILING AS PART OF THEIR TRAINING ...?
Shoo
THE CRABS AND SHELL-FISH TO-GETH-ER...?
KEEP IT TO YOUR-SELF, ANGO.
AND WE FILLED IT UP WITH PLENTY OF CRABS AND SHELLFISH.
THE BATHTUB ARASHI PICKED UP WAS TURNED INTO A FISH TANK ... .
THE SIDES ARE ALL SLIPPERY, DOESN'T LOOK LIKE THEY'LL CLIMB OUT!

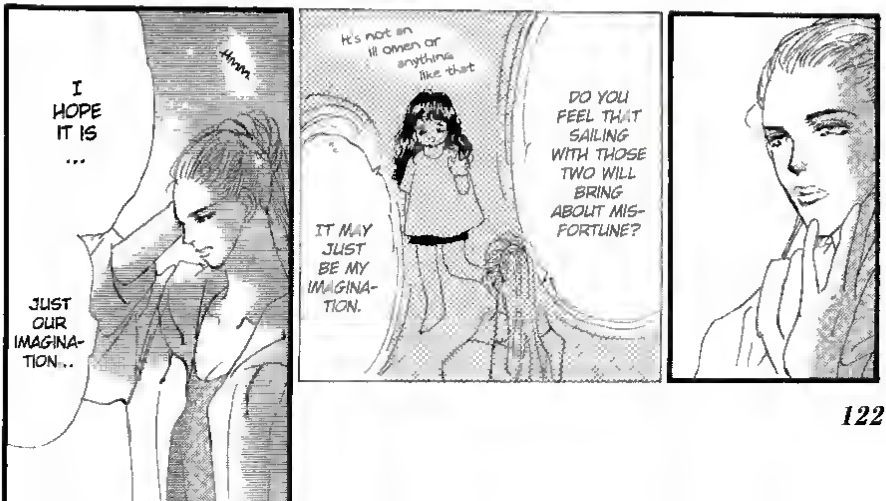
THIS IS THEIR TEST AFTER ALL.
SHAA
YEAH ...
IT'S ABOUT ATTENTIVENESS.
THE TEST IS BASED ON YOUR LEVEL OF AWARENESS
SHAA...
TO EVERY SIGN OF DANGER.
YOU MUST PAY ATTENTION ...
SHAA
THESE ARE THE SHIP'S CABINS.
Creeeak
GUYS ON THIS SIDE, GIRLS ON THAT SIDE.
WHOOSH
CHIMAKI SLEEPS IN SOME WEIRD PLACE ...
AND THAT OLD GUY TOOK OFF ...
Click
SO THIS CABIN'S FREE.
IT'S ALL YOURS.
Though feel free to sleep in some weird place if that's how you roll

THIS IS MY KITCHEN STOVE.
SO KEEP YOUR GRUBBY MITTS OFF!
IT'S SURPRISINGLY SPACIOUS, HUH?
HERE'S THE LIVING ROOM AND DINING AREA.
SO WE JUST SORTA CHUCK STUFF IN HERE FOR STORAGE.
AHH, WE'VE NEVER FIGURED OUT WHAT THIS ROOM'S FOR...
Clack
THOUGH IT GETS ALL STUFFY IN HERE FROM THE STOVE HEAT.
WHAT'S THIS ROOM?
We should reuse the wash water too.
But at least that way we save on tank water.
OH, BUT THERE AIN'T A BATH...
THEN BEYOND HERE IS THE TOILET AND BATHROOM ...
I wonder if using just enough water to cover yourself would be okay. Like one full basin of water per person per day?
AND THEN EVERYTHING BELOW THIS DECK IS STORAGE.
PLUS THE SPARE ROOM ...

BATH ?!
BA...
ISN'T THIS ...
A BATH?
THERE'S A DOOR ON THE CEILING ...
It's not a window, cos ya can't see through it or anything.
THAT OPENS UP...
BUT WE AIN'T GOT A CLUE WHAT IT'S FOR.
SHAA
WELL, THERE ARE MANY WAYS TO BATHE AFTER ALL.
They linked this room up with the kitchen in order to reuse the heat from the stove.
OR FILL A BATH WITH HOT WATER ON A SHIP LIKE THIS.
THEY PROBABLY THOUGHT IT'LL BE DIFFICULT TO MAINTAIN A SHOWER ...
A SAUNA YOU SAY?!
YOU HEAT SOME STONES, AND THEN POUR WATER ON THEM TO CREATE STEAM.
IT'S A SALINA BATH.
OHHHHHH!
I SEE !!
It was built the way it is to prevent heat loss
If they'd built a glass window on the ceiling, the heat would escape through it.
AS A MEANS OF VENTILATION.
THAT'S WHY THE CEILING OPENS UP...
I think a smoke-house would be preferable, since saunas can be a lot of trouble if you're not careful
THAT'S TRUE
IF YOU BURN KINDLING IN HERE ...
YOU COULD ALSO TURN IT INTO A SMOKE-HOUSE.

ARA-SHI!
AWE-SOME!
NEXT TIME YOU GO DIVING, GRAB US A BUNCHA STONES!
WHAT FUN!
GOT IT!
A SAUNA! OH MY GOSH, IT'S A SAUNA!
Oh really?
Hmm?
KYAH!
EH...?
THOSE TWO...
SEEM TO KNOW EVERY-THING.
WHAT RELIABLE PEOPLE!

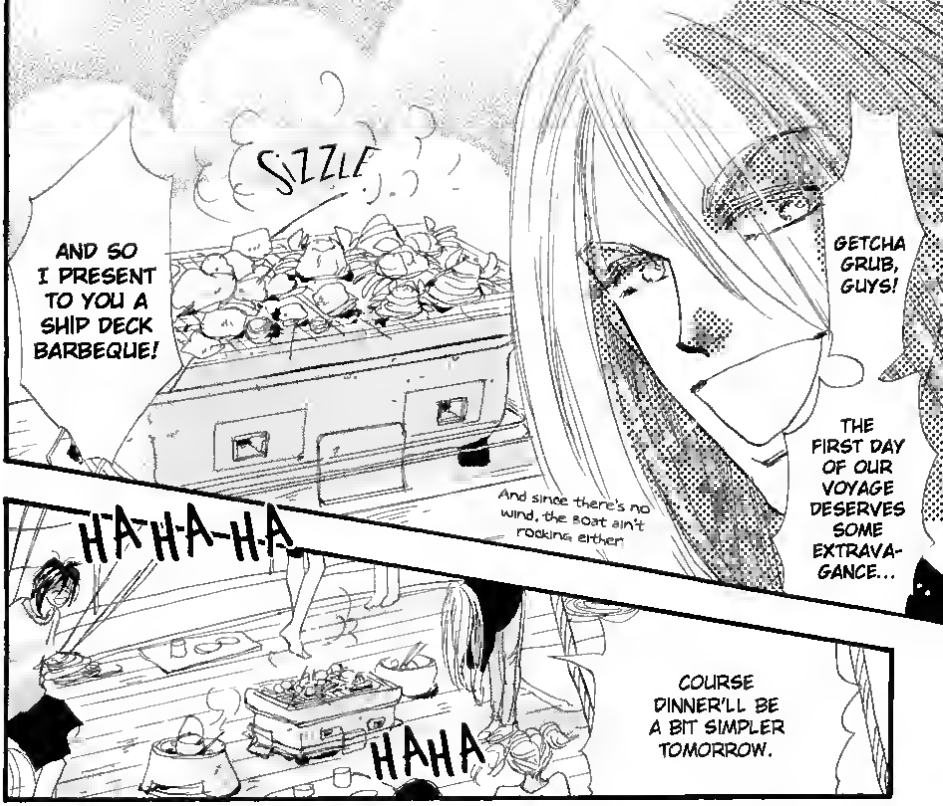

BE-CAUSE OF THESE TWO?
THAT I'M SO EXCITED ABOUT THIS VOYAGE ..
COULD IT BE ...


I HOPE IT IS ...
Hmm
JUST OUR IMAGINA-TION...
It's not an ill omen or anything like that
IT MAY JUST BE MY IMAGINA-TION.
DO YOU FEEL THAT SAILING WITH THOSE TWO WILL BRING ABOUT MIS-FORTUNE?

BECAUSE MAYBE THEY CAN BE SEEN FROM FAR OFF.
I WAS HOPING SOMEONE WOULD SEE THEM.
WHY ...
DO YOU FLY THOSE KITES?
Flap Flap Flap
SHAA
NA-TSU,
I'M GONNA FLY THE KITES AGAIN ...
COULD YOU GIVE ME A HAND?
SURE!
HOW ARE YOU HOLDING UP?
HAVE YOU GOTTEN OVER YOUR SEASICK-NESS?
TRUE,
REALLY?
SPOTTING THEM DID LEAD US TO YOU.
ALL RIGHT!
IT LOOKS LIKE ARASHI-KUN IS REALLY ENJOY-ING HIM-SELF TOO.
EH?
UM...
HUH?

I SEE.
THAT'S GOOD.
WHEN I FIRST BEGAN SAILING, I DID GET A LITTLE SEASICK...
WHY?
BUT RIGHT NOW I'M TOTALLY FINE.
IS HE SO KIND TO ME?
WHY?
HON-ESTLY, WHY...
UM...
WHY ARE YOU...
ALWAYS SO KIND TO ME?
T-THAT'S RIGHT...
WHENEVER I HAVE SOMETHING TO ASK ...
I SHOULD JUST GO AHEAD AND ASK ...
HOLD A PROPER CONVER-SATION!
IF THAT'S HOW YOU FEEL, THEN SPEAK UP!
DON'T JUST MUTTER EVERY-THING TO YOUR-SELF!
Gulp

UM...
NO...
HE'S SPEECHLESS...?!
IT'S FINE, NEVER MIND. PLEASE EXCUSE ME.
...
KIND?
IT'S UNSETTLING WHEN SOMEONE DOESN'T RESPOND TO YOU.
OH, BUT ...
I-I'LL GO HELP SEMIMARU-SAN...
I ASKED A DIFFICULT QUESTION TO ANSWER.
HOW EMBARRASSING!
MUST'VE REALLY TROUBLED THE PEOPLE AROUND ME TOO...
THE WAY I USED TO ALWAYS KEEP TO MYSELF...
Isn't someone who can speak up straight away.
WHEN IT COMES TO CONVERSING WITH OTHERS...
ALSO FEELS A LITTLE AWKWARD ...
I WONDER IF ANGO-KUN'...


SIZZLE
AND SO I PRESENT TO YOU A SHIP DECK BARBEQUE!
GETCHA GRUB, GUYS!
THE FIRST DAY OF OUR VOYAGE DESERVES SOME EXTRAVAGANCE...
And since there's no wind, the boat ain't rocking either
HA-HA-HA
HAHA
COURSE DINNER'LL BE A BIT SIMPLER TOMORROW.

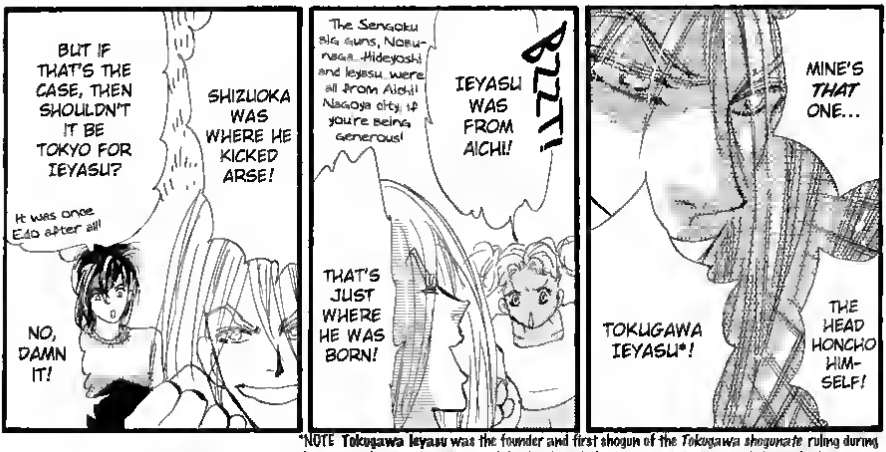
*NOTE: **Takeda Shingen** of the Kai Province (now known as the Yamanashi Prefecture) is a preeminent *daimyo* (powerful territorial lord) of the Sengoku Period (during the 16th century). ***Furinkazan*** was the battle standard used by Takeda Shingen and stood for "As fast as the wind, as quiet as the forest, as daring as fire, and as immovable as the mountain". The sea is not mentioned in this expression, this is what Seminaru is referring to.

*NOTE: Lit "Boast about your hometown". It's like a game where you name things about the place you're from in order to bring pride to your hometown.

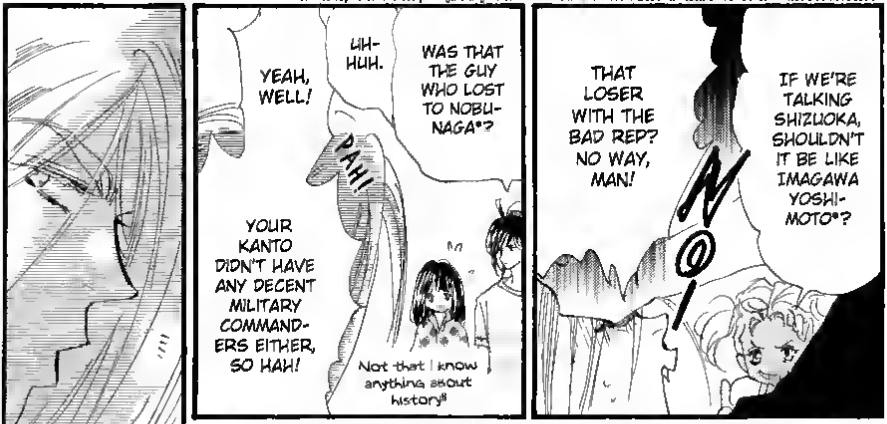
*NOTE. **Uesugi Kenshin** of the Echigo Province (now known as the Niigata Prefecture including Sado Island where Hotaru's from) is another prominent *daimyo* of the Sengoku Period. Amongst other things, he was famous for his long-standing **rivalry with Takeda Shingen**. Yet, when other *daimyo* boycotted salt supplies to the Kai Province, Kenshin helped Shingen by **secretly supplying him with salt**, saying "wars should be won with swords and spears, not rice and salt."

Kato Kiyomasa was a *daimyo* of the Azuchi-Momoyama and Edo Periods (around the time when Oda Nobunaga began unifying Japan under the shogunate). Kiyomasa **served Toyotomi Hideyoshi**, the *daimyo* that succeeded Nobunaga and brought an end to the Sengoku period. Somewhere along the line, Kiyomasa **hunts and kills a tiger** then presents its hide to Hideyoshi, which is what Natsu is referring to.

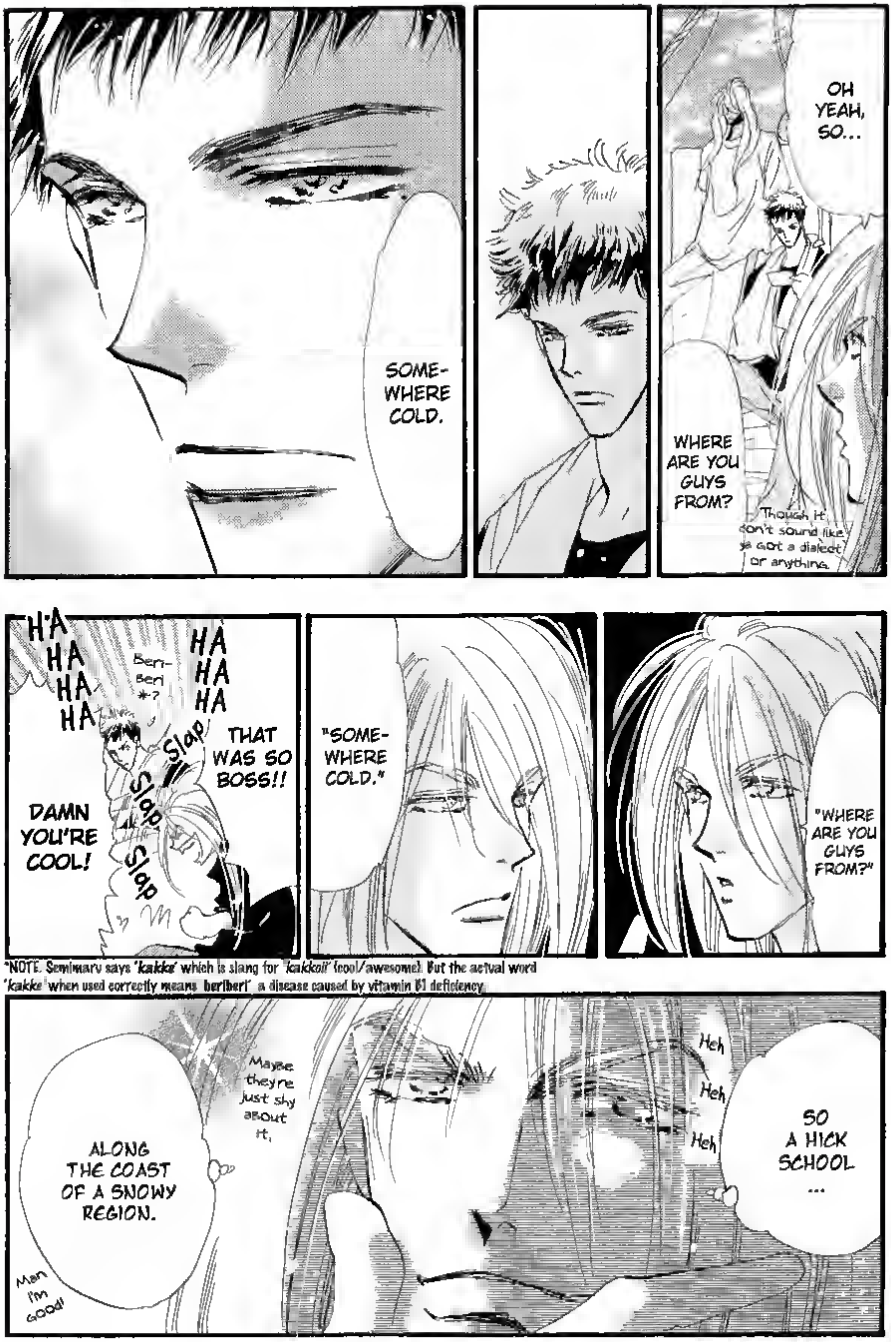
UM, HE WAS ONE OF HIDEYOSHI'S RETAINERS*.
WHO THE HELL'S HE?!
OHHH!
The tiger-slayer*
WELL MINE'S WAY MORE AWE-SOME!
THEN I'LL GO TOO...
KATO KIYO-MASA*.
He once lived in Kumamoto Castle, though I don't really know what he did
WELL I NEVER!
OHHH!
UESUGI KENSHIN* FOR ME.
YOU'RE MY RIVAL*, HOTARU-CHAN!
But thanks for the salt*!


BUT IF THAT'S THE CASE, THEN SHOULDN'T IT BE TOKYO FOR IEYASU?
SHIZUOKA WAS WHERE HE KICKED ARSE!
It was once Edo after all
NO, DAMN IT!
The Sengoku Big Guns, Nobu-naga...Hideyoshi and Ieyasu were all from Aichi! Nagoya city, if you're being generous!
BZZT!
IEYASU WAS FROM AICHI!
THAT'S JUST WHERE HE WAS BORN!
MINE'S THAT ONE...
TOKUGAWA IEYASU*!
THE HEAD HONCHO HIM-SELF!

*NOTE. **Tokugawa Ieyasu** was the founder and first shogun of the *Tokugawa shogunate* ruling during the early 17th century (beginning of the Edo Period). He was **born in Mikawa of the Aichi Prefecture**.


YEAH, WELL!
UH-HUH.
WAS THAT THE GUY WHO LOST TO NOBU-NAGA*?
PAH!
YOUR KANTO DIDN'T HAVE ANY DECENT MILITARY COMMAND-ERS EITHER, SO HAH!
Not that I know anything about history!
THAT LOSER WITH THE BAD REP? NO WAY, MAN!
NO!
IF WE'RE TALKING SHIZUOKA, SHOULDN'T IT BE LIKE IMAGAWA YOSHI-MOTO*?

*NOTE. **Imagawa Yoshimoto** of the Suruga Province (now part of the Shizuoka Prefecture) was a leading *daimyo* during the Sengoku Period. He **met his untimely demise at the hands of Nobunaga** when he had relaxed his guard thinking the battle had been won (his soldiers were drunk and partying). As a consequence, his clan fell from power and lost their *daimyo* status.



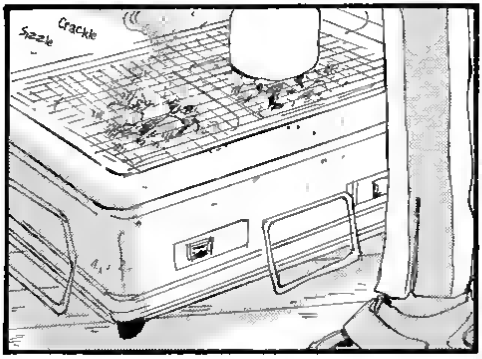
*NOTE: Seminary says "kakka" which is slang for "kakkoii" (cool/awesome). But the actual word "kakke" when used correctly means "beriberi" a disease caused by vitamin B1 deficiency.

QUITE A FEW PEOPLE WHO KNEW EACH OTHER CAME, HUH?
HOTARU-CHAN WAS ONE OF THEM TOO.
Hisari-chan is one of my relatives.
THAT MUST'VE BEEN RE-ASSURING.
I GUESS
WE WERE ALL STRANGERS WHEN WE FIRST MET.
HHHH
How lucky!
COME FROM THE SAME PLACE?
DO BOTH OF YOU...
WERE YOU PERHAPS ACQUAINTED BEFORE COMING HERE?
BETTER BRING THE BOAT CLOSER TO SHORE AND ANCHOR IT FOR THE NIGHT...
BEFORE IT GETS DARK.
No good
OOPS!
no good
Girl-friend !?
THEN THERE'S ARASHI-KUN'S GIRL-FRIEND TOO, YEAH?
I SEE.
THAT PERSON IS QUITE WELL-INFORMED.
THERE AIN'T NO MORE LIGHT-HOUSES OR NIGHT LIGHTS AFTER ALL.
That geezer's words of wisdom
WELL, COS WE MIGHT CRASH INTO LAND BY MISTAKE!
IT WAS THAT GEEZER WHO TOLD US...
WE HAD TO ANCHOR THE BOAT AT NIGHT.
WHY'S THAT?

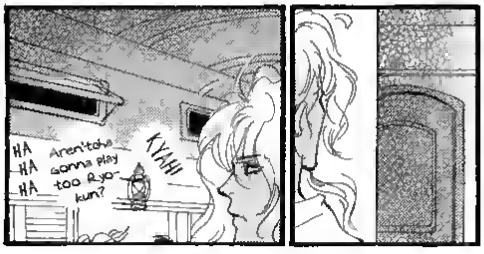
WHEN THERE'S NO MOON, IT REALLY IS PITCH BLACK...
AT NIGHT.
I'll lower the anchor.
GRIND
GRIND
ON THE OTHER HAND, ANY SIGN OF LIGHT...
MUST MEAN THERE ARE PEOPLE THERE.
THOUGH ...
And lower the sails too.
WE'VE YET TO SEE A SINGLE LIGHT...

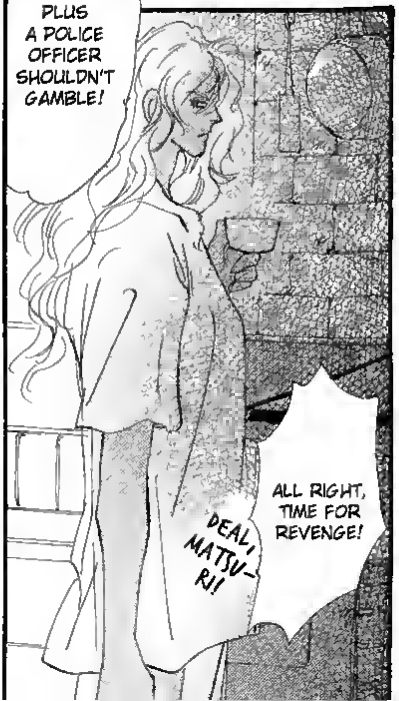
All right! Time to clean up!
Since it's still hot we can put on some coffee, kick back and relax
Watch your step
Course it's only the instant stuff
YEAH.
ARASHI ...
YOU SEEM PRETTY EAGER ...
TO MEET OTHER PEOPLE.

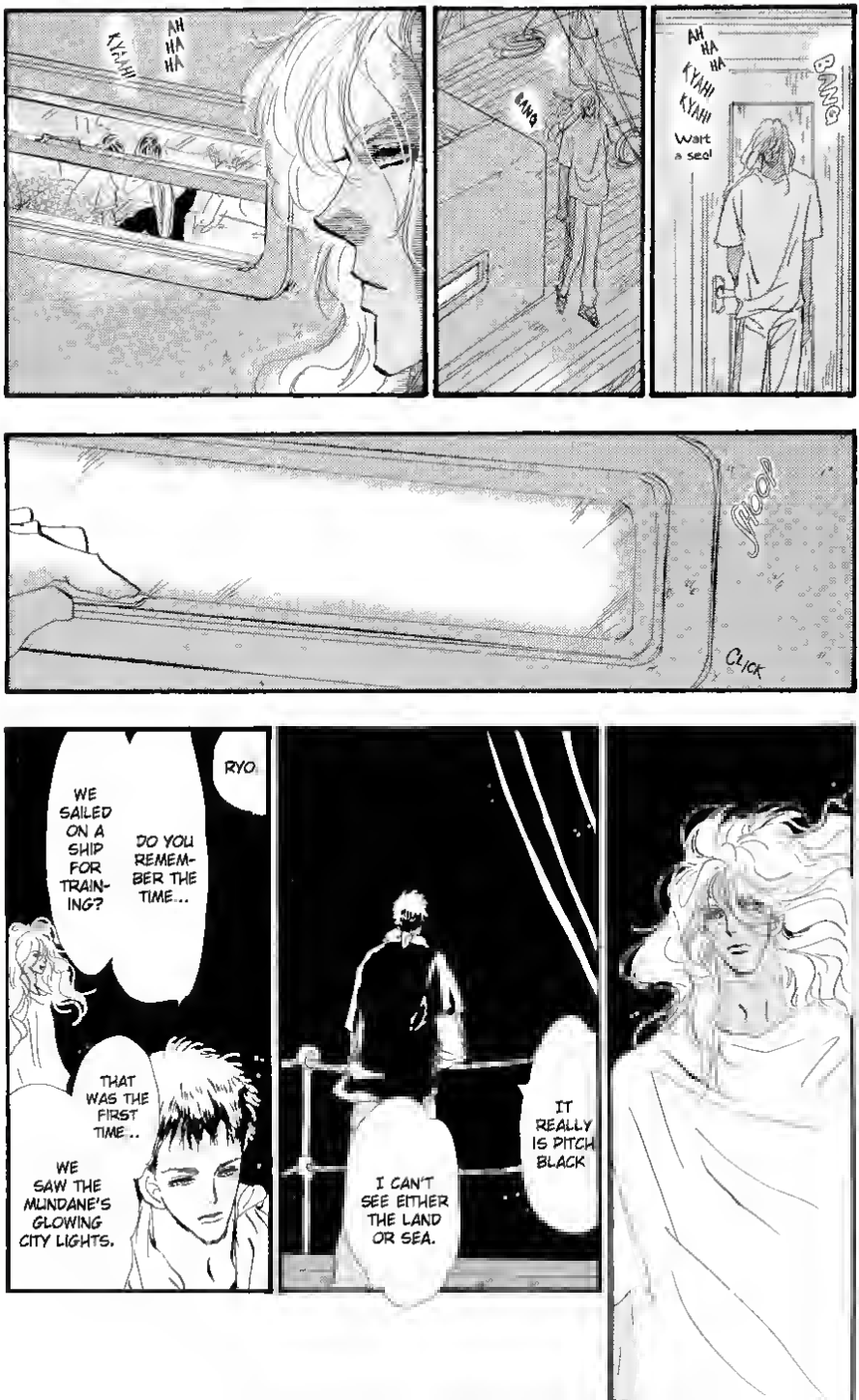
IS OLD MAID REALLY THAT FUN?
GAME OVER!!
I WIN!
KYAAAH!!
AGAIN?
THE OLD MAID?!
EEP!
Umm... Umm...
THIS ONE!
JOKER
3
J


Sizzle
Crackle

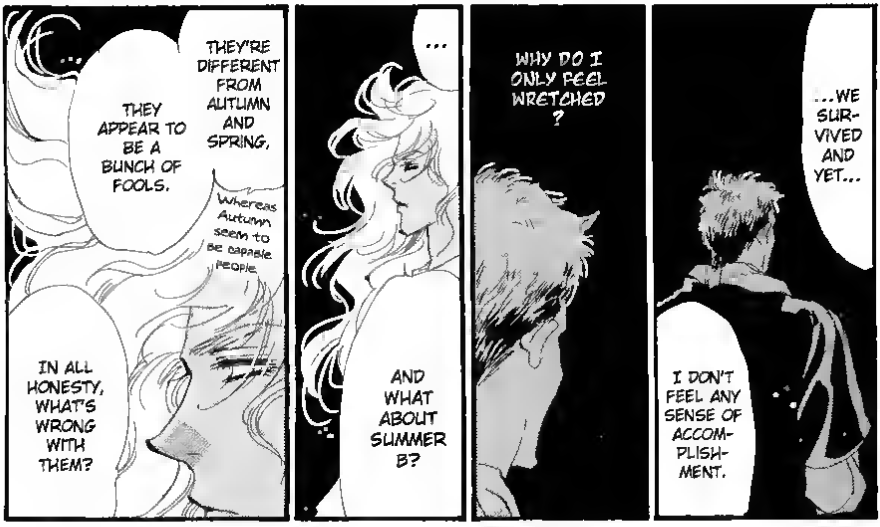
WHY DON'T YOU PLAY POKER?
Collect points or something
NO WAY! I GET THE FEELING YOU'LL GET WAY TOO INTO IT, NEE-SAN!
AH HA HA


HA HA HA
Aren't she gonna play too Ryo-kun?
KYAH!

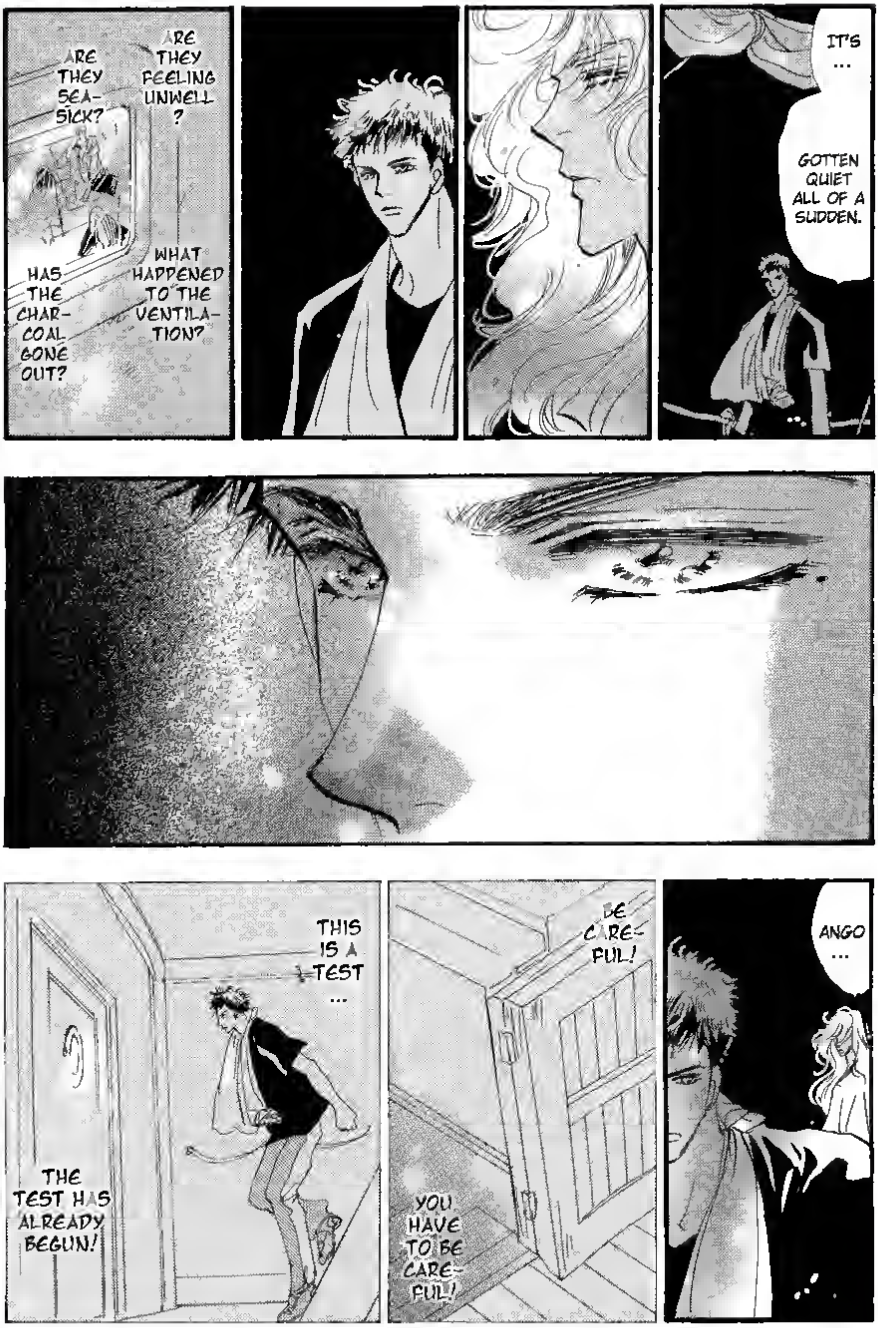

PLUS A POLICE OFFICER SHOULDN'T GAMBLE!
ALL RIGHT, TIME FOR REVENGE!
DEAL, MATSU-RI!


KYAHH
AH HA HA
BANG
AH HA HA KYAHH KYAHH
Wait a sec!
BANG
SNAP
CLICK
RYO.
WE SAILED ON A SHIP FOR TRAINING?
DO YOU REMEMBER THE TIME...
THAT WAS THE FIRST TIME..
WE SAW THE MUNDANE'S GLOWING CITY LIGHTS.
I CAN'T SEE EITHER THE LAND OR SEA.
IT REALLY IS PITCH BLACK

THOSE GUYS WILL BE WIPED FROM EXISTENCE ...
EVERY LAST ONE OF THEM.
ONLY WE WILL SURVIVE.


...
THEY'RE DIFFERENT FROM AUTUMN AND SPRING,
THEY APPEAR TO BE A BUNCH OF FOOLS.
Whereas Autumn seem to be capable people.
IN ALL HONESTY, WHAT'S WRONG WITH THEM?
...
AND WHAT ABOUT SUMMER B?
WHY DO I ONLY FEEL WRETCHED ?
...WE SURVIVED AND YET...
I DON'T FEEL ANY SENSE OF ACCOMPLISHMENT.

PERHAPS WE'RE FEELING A BIT SEA SICK...
WHAT ABOUT YOU, NAT-CHAN?
SINCE WE HAVEN'T SAILED IN A WHILE.
YEAH ...
Did we overdo it with Old Maid? D'ya think we shoulda played Sevens instead ?
URGH...
DUDE ...
MY HEAD SORTA HURTS ...
ME TOO ...
Maybe we should just go to sed
TING TONG
Song of Farewell is perfect for night time!
TONG TING
KATONG
HUH ...?
EVERY-THING'S GONE ALL WOOZY ...
I FEEL KINDA WEIRD ...
I SORT OF...
FEEL REALLY SICK
LIKE I'M GONNA PUKE ...
TING TONG

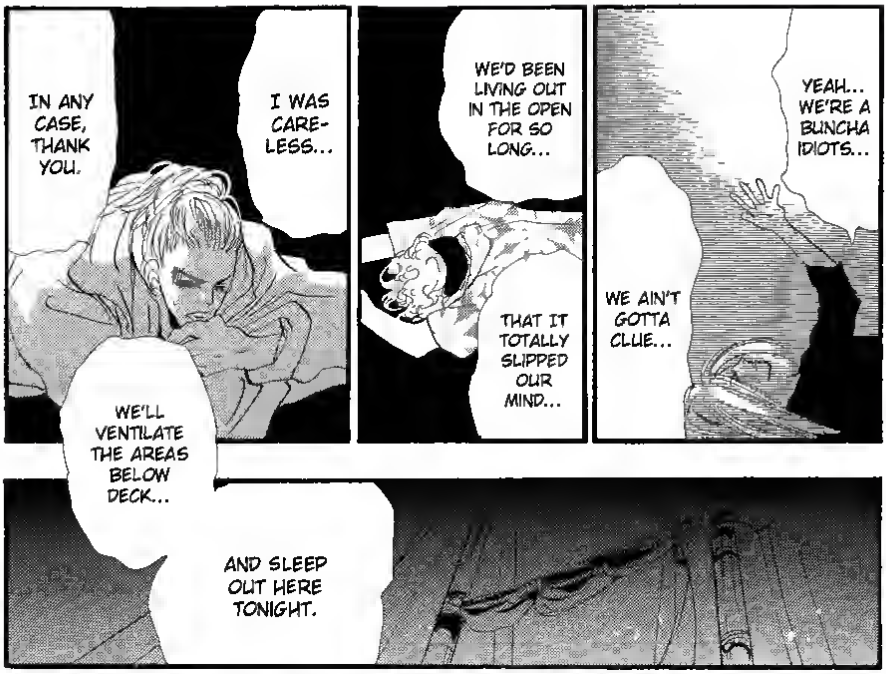

ARE THEY SEA-SICK?
ARE THEY FEELING UNWELL?
HAS THE CHAR-COAL GONE OUT?
WHAT HAPPENED TO THE VENTILA-TION?
IT'S ...
GOTTEN QUIET ALL OF A SUDDEN.
THIS IS A TEST ...
THE TEST HAS ALREADY BEGUN!
BE CARE-FUL!
YOU HAVE TO BE CARE-FUL!
ANGO ...

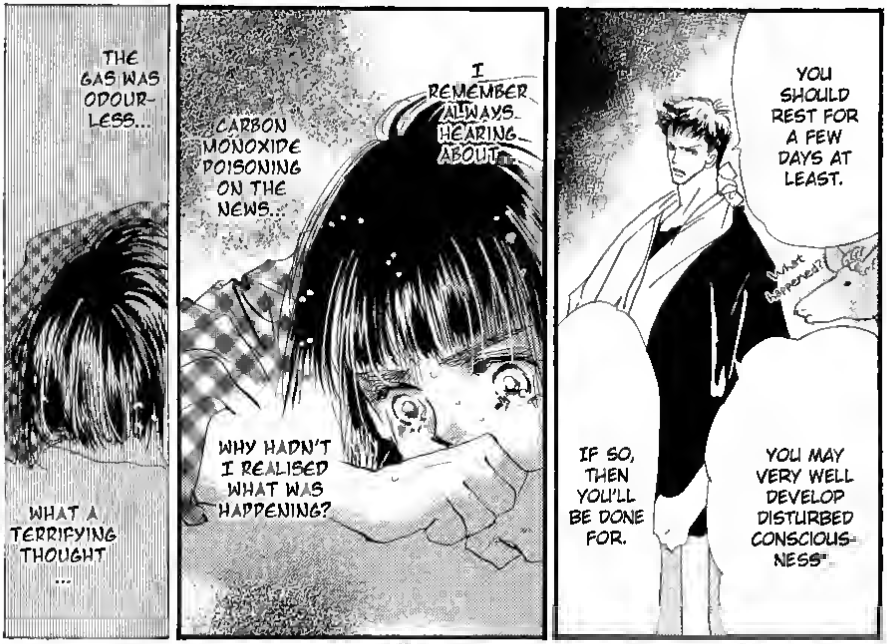
IF YOU THINK SO, THEN GET OUT!
IT'S THE CARBON MONO-XIDE!
WHAT IS THIS ...?
IS THE SHIP SWAYING ?
BLEGH...
I'M GONNA HURL ...
MAN ...
EVERY-THING'S SPINNING ...
BANG
IT'S EXACTLY LIKE LAST TIME...
EVERY-BODY, GET OUT !!
KORURI!
SHIGERU ?!
GET OUTSIDE NOW!!
SHIGERU !!

Haa
Haa
Uwaaa
Haa
Uwaaa
DON'T TRY TO WALK!
CARRY THEM OUT, RYO!

AH...
THIS IS KINDA NICE...
EXCEPT I'M DROOLING EVERY-WHERE...

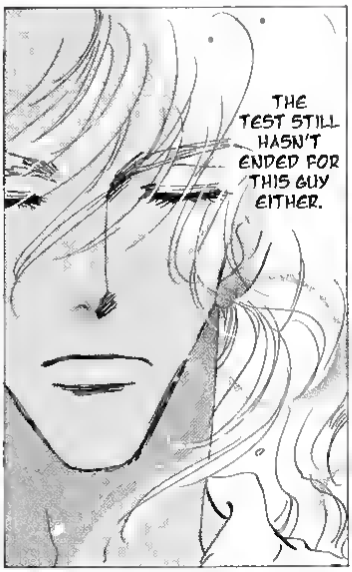
VENTILATORS DON'T EXIST IN THIS WORLD!
YOU BETTER PRAY THAT YOUR SYMPTOMS DON'T WORSEN!
WAZ-ZAT ...?
Urgh...
THIS IS WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU BURN CHARCOAL IN AN ENCLOSED ROOM.
MOREOVER, SHIPS TEND TO BE EXTREMELY AIRTIGHT.
Plus you were using lanterns as well
IT'S BECAUSE YOU DISREGARDED THE IMPORTANCE OF VENTILATION.
SNAP
WHY DIDN'T ANYONE NOTICE?!
DO YOU ALL WANT TO DIE?!
PAY ATTENTION!!
EVERY LAST ONE OF YOU, GONE IN AN INSTANT!
HOW FOOLISH CAN YOU BE?!


IN ANY CASE, THANK YOU.
I WAS CARE-LESS...
WE'D BEEN LIVING OUT IN THE OPEN FOR SO LONG...
THAT IT TOTALLY SLIPPED OUR MIND...
YEAH... WE'RE A BUNCHA IDIOTS...
WE AIN'T GOTTA CLUE...
WE'LL VENTILATE THE AREAS BELOW DECK...
AND SLEEP OUT HERE TONIGHT.


THE GAS WAS ODOUR-LESS...
WHAT A TERRIFYING THOUGHT ...
CARBON MONOXIDE POISONING ON THE NEWS...
I REMEMBER ALWAYS HEARING ABOUT...
WHY HADN'T I REALISED WHAT WAS HAPPENING?
YOU SHOULD REST FOR A FEW DAYS AT LEAST.
What happened?
IF SO, THEN YOU'LL BE DONE FOR.
YOU MAY VERY WELL DEVELOP DISTURBED CONSCIOUS-NESS*

*NOTE: A **mental condition** wherein the disturbances include delirium, coma, hypnosis, psychosis, time disorientation etc. Ango is worried that their brains may have been starved of oxygen for too long, in which case permanent neural damage may have occurred.

ANGO ...
THANK YOU.
UM ...
THANK YOU SO MUCH ...
I'M SORRY ...
USE YOUR HEAD AND FIGURE IT OUT FOR YOURSELF.
YEAH, OKAY ...
R...
RIGHT ...
REALISE WHAT'S HAPPEN-ING...
AND AVOID DANGER.
THAT IS THE ONLY WAY TO SURVIVE.

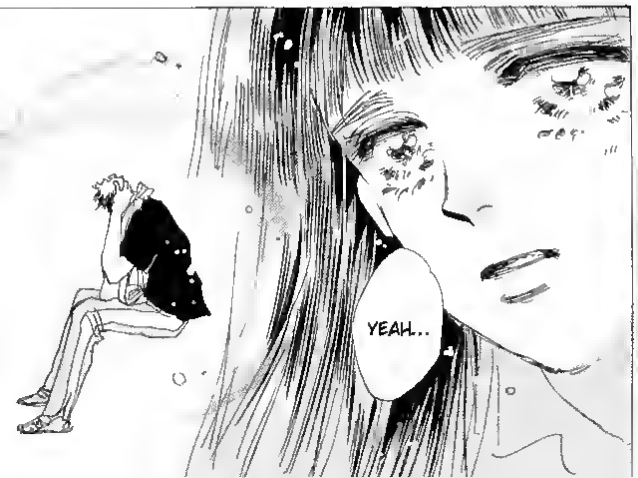

THE TEST STILL HASN'T ENDED FOR THIS GUY EITHER.

Sigh
WHAT HAPPENS IF THEY ALL...
DIE IN AN INSTANT ?
Does the test end ?

...YOUR SAVIOUR.

EH?
R...
REALLY ?
Y'KNOW, ANGO-KUN TOTALLY FLEW TO YOUR RESCUE BEFORE ANYONE ELSE, NAT-CHAN.

THE TEACHERS MUST'VE HAD THEIR WORK CUT OUT FOR THEM...
TRYING TO PREVENT EVERYONE FROM DYING AT ONCE.
SHALL WE DEAL WITH THEM ONE BY ONE THEN...?

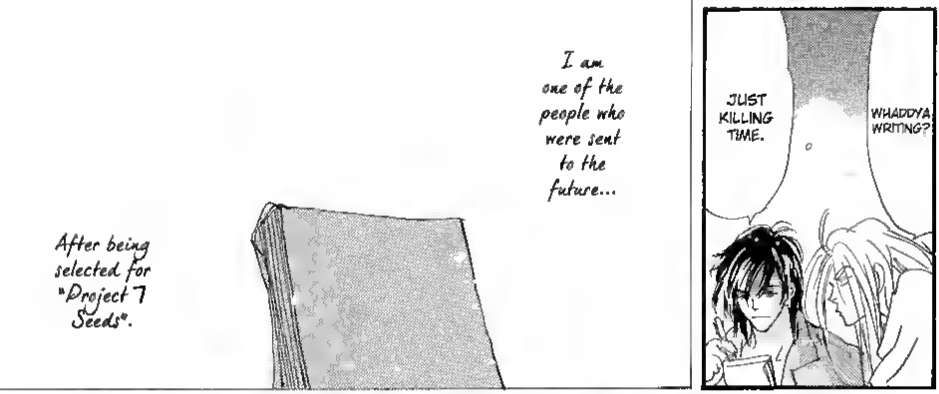

YEAH...

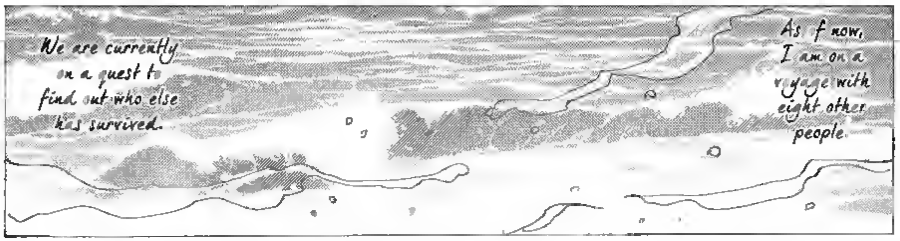
SHAA..
THAT'S A RELIEF.
IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE ANYONE HAS DEVELOPED ANY STRANGE SYMPTOMS OVER THE PAST FEW DAYS.
SHAAA
Splash
Splish

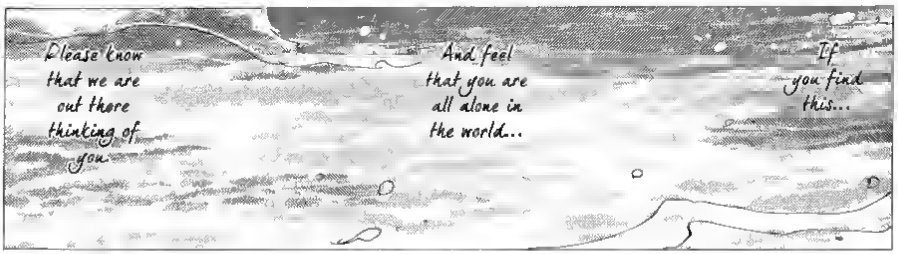
THAT'S ENOUGH! I'M TOTALLY ALIVE AND KICKING!
LAZING ABOUT ALL DAY IS SOOO BORING!
PLUS I'M STARV-ING!

...
I GUESS SO...

I'M SORRY FOR BRINGING UP THE IDEA OF MISFOR-TUNE.
WE'RE LUCKY TO HAVE THOSE TWO ON BOARD.


After being selected for "Project 7 Seeds".
I am one of the people who were sent to the future...
JUST KILLING TIME.
WHADDYA WRITING?


We are currently on a quest to find out who else has survived.
As of now, I am on a voyage with eight other people.


Please know that we are out there thinking of you.
And feel that you are all alone in the world...
If you find this...

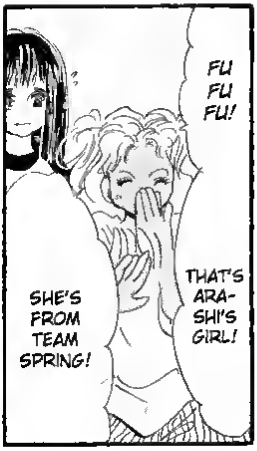
Scritch
青田 嵐
AOTA ARASHI
JAPAN

AOTA ARA-SHI
.....

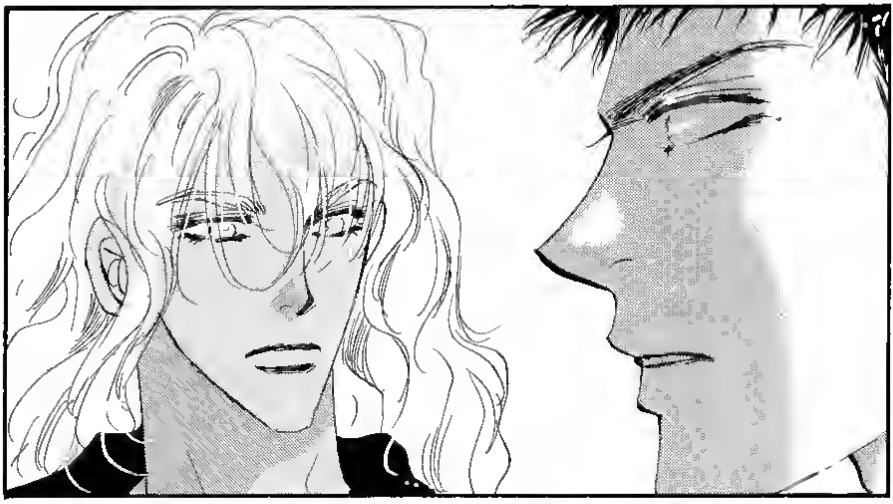
I hope that we can meet one day.
And I pray for your good health and fortune.

Splash
Swish
Twist
Twist
Splash
Splash
I WONDER WHERE IT'LL DRIFT TO...
WAS THAT A LETTER FOR HANA-SAN?
NO, ANY-BODY IS WELCOME TO READ IT.
YOU'RE QUITE THE MAIDEN AT HEART, AREN'T YOU?

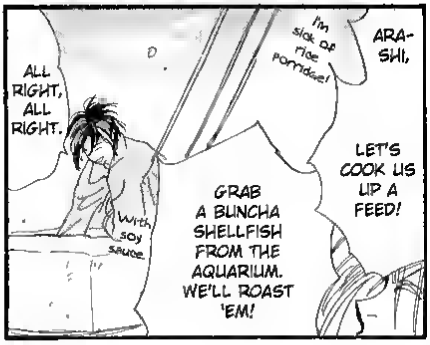
ISN'T IT STRANGE THAT A PAIR OF LOVERS WERE CHOSEN?

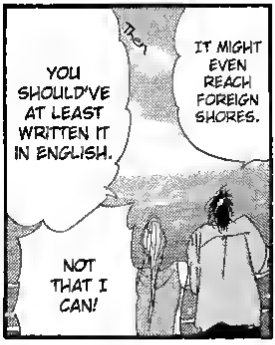

FU FU FU!
THAT'S ARA-SHI'S GIRL!
SHE'S FROM TEAM SPRING!

HANA ...?

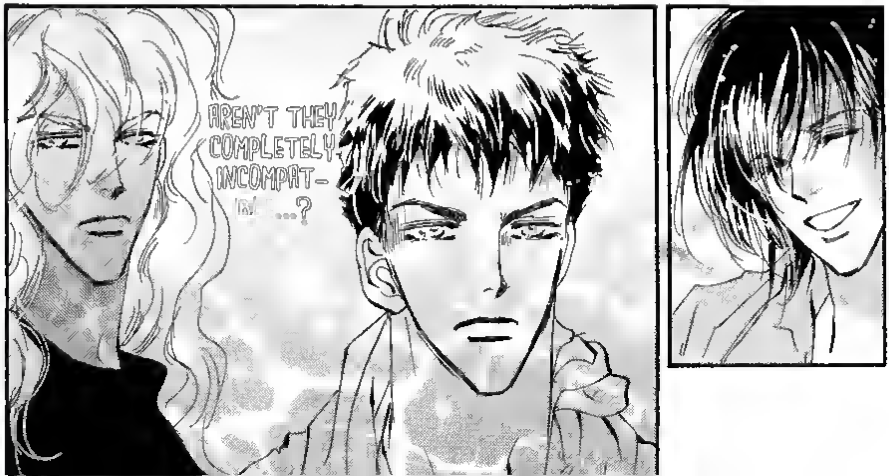


HMM?


ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT.
With soy sauce
I'm sick of rice porridge!
ARA-SHI,
LET'S COOK US UP A FEED!
GRAB A BUNCHA SHELLFISH FROM THE AQUARIUM. WE'LL ROAST 'EM!


Then
IT MIGHT EVEN REACH FOREIGN SHORES.
YOU SHOULD'VE AT LEAST WRITTEN IT IN ENGLISH.
NOT THAT I CAN!

Munch
Munch
WHAAT ?!
THE SHELLS ARE EMPTY!
HUH?
WHA?!
THEY'VE ONLY JUST REALISED THAT?
Eeeeh?!
WE SHOULDN'T HAVE PUT THEM TOGETHER!
NO WAAAY !!
THEY WERE EATEN BY THE CRABS !!
HA...NA'S..?
THROB
HANA'S ...
LOVER ...?
Aw man, and I worked so hard to collect them too!
What a shock!
We're such idiots!


AREN'T THEY COMPLETELY INCOMPAT-
...?

THERE IS NO END...
JUST THAT TAKASHI-SENSEI ...
MADE SURE HIS OWN DAUGHTER,
AS WELL AS HER LOVER ...
GOT IN UNCONDITIONALLY.
TO HIS CORRUPTION...!

HANA ...
THROB
HANA ...
WAS A FORMIDIBLE WOMAN OF IRON NERVES ...
AND YET SHE WENT FOR A GUY LIKE THAT?

THROB
THROB
THROB

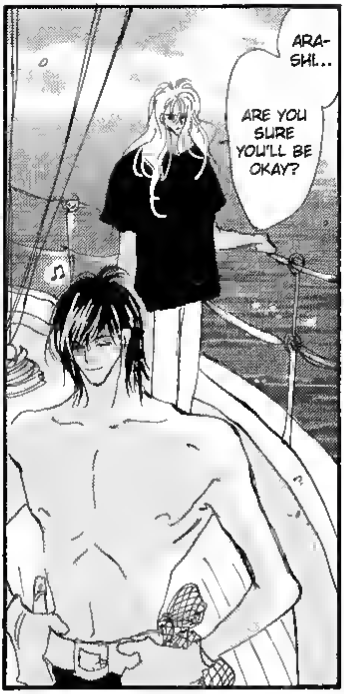
IT ISN'T STRANGE AT ALL...

IS ARASHI A PERSON WHO DESERVES TO BE HERE?
OR DID HE SIMPLY CHEAT HIS WAY IN?
YOU'LL ...
FIND OUT SOON ENOUGH.
WHETHER HE'S A PERSON ...
WHO'S CAPABLE OF SURVIVING OR NOT.
UGH!
THROB

SHE'S DEAD.
FORGET ...
ABOUT HANA.
YOU DON'T NEED TO SPEAK A WORD ABOUT IT TO ARASHI EITHER.

Hmph
YAY! YAY!
THEY JUST DON'T LEARN, DO THEY?
SATURDAY CAN BE SAUNA DAY!
YEAH!!
LET'S ALL TRY IT OUT THIS SATUR-DAY!
Just kid-ding!
WELL I'M OFF TO DO A BIT OF DIVING AND CATCH US MORE FOOD.
OH YEAH! THE SAUNA!
I'LL PICK UP STONES FOR THE SAUNA WHILE I'M AT IT.

YUP.
I'LL TAKE IT EASY TO MAKE SURE I DON'T OVERDO IT.


ARA-SHI...
ARE YOU SURE YOU'LL BE OKAY?

I'LL LEND YOU A HAND.

SPLOOSH
NOT PARTICU-LARLY.

THANKS!
ARE YOU A GOOD SWIMMER TOO, RYO-KUN?

7 SEEDS

Chapter 91

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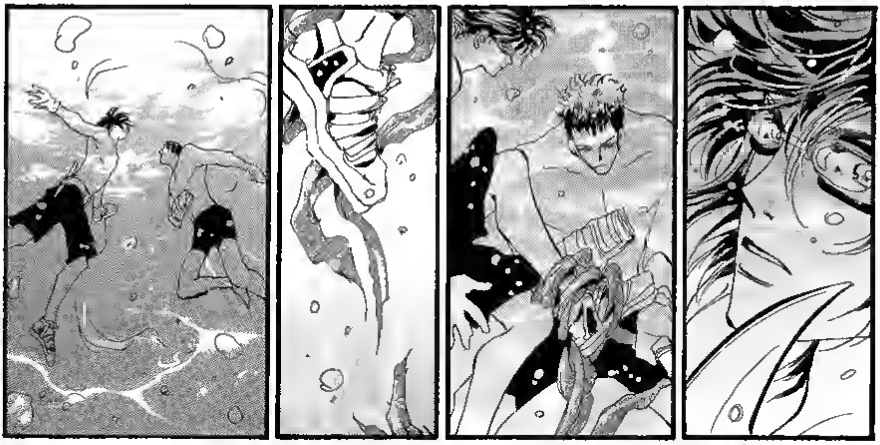
MINOR HEAT
CHAPTER 6
【—LOSE ONE'S WAY—】

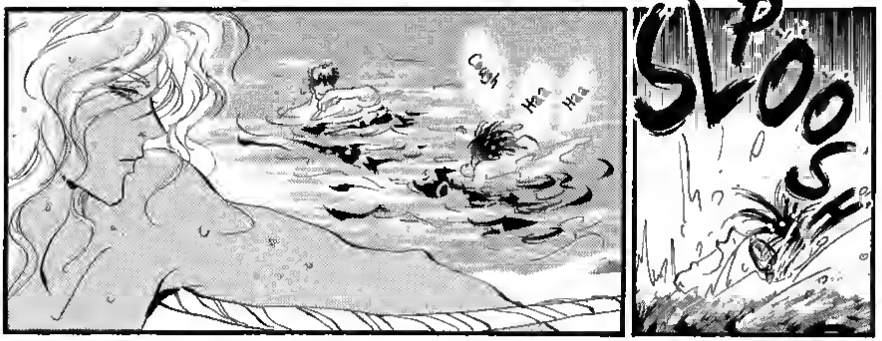
NOTE. Named after Watanabe Machiko's debut single, "Mayoi Michi", released in 1977

MAYBE THE SEA IS STILL IN THE PROCESS OF REGEN-ERATION.
SO FAR, I'VE YET TO SEE ANY FISH IN THE SEA.
THOUGH THERE ARE PLENTY OF SHELLFISH AND CRUS-TACEANS ...
OHH! FOUND SOME!

AND THEN I'LL COME BACK FOR THE STONES ...
I'LL RETURN TO THE SURFACE FOR NOW ...
ALL RIGHT, I'VE GOT QUITE A HAUL.

HUH ?!
GLUGG
UUUGH ?!
UUUGH
BLUBB

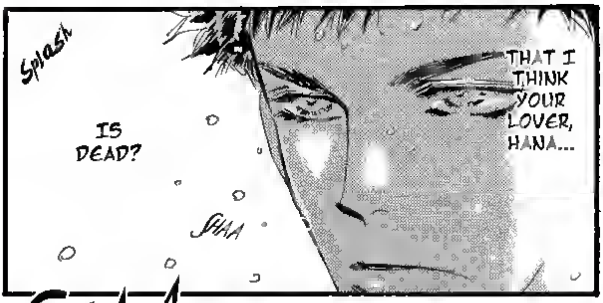



Cough
Haa
Haa
SPOOSH

Splash
Splash
ARASHI ...
YOU HAVE A KNIFE ON YOU...
SO WHY DIDN'T YOU USE IT?
AH!
YOU WERE DOWN THERE FOR QUITE SOME TIME AFTER ALL.
Splash
Splash
Haa Haa
Cough
Cough
AHH,
THAT GAVE ME A SCARE!
THANK YOU SO MUCH.
I NEVER REALLY NEEDED TO USE KNIVES ...
BEFORE COMING HERE...
SO I STILL HAVEN'T GOTTEN USED TO RELYING ON ONE.
DON'T FORGET!
Have you been properly sharpening it?
No, not at all
OH, NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT...
I COMPLETELY FORGOT.
My mind just went blank
THAT'S TRUE ...
APPEARED TO BE ACCUSTOMED TO USING ONE.
BUT HANA ...

WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF I SAID TO YOU ...
There we go
Clank
Clank
BUT I MANAGED TO COLLECT PLENTY OF SHELL-FISH.

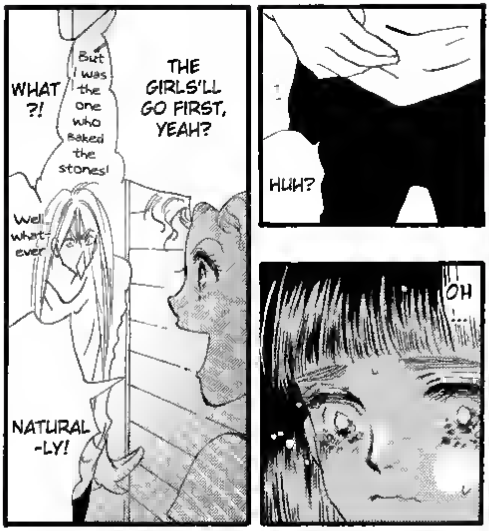
YOU CAN'T EVEN HANDLE SUCH A SIMPLE CRISIS?
IS THAT ALL YOU HAVE TO OFFER, ARASHI?
SHAA
Splish

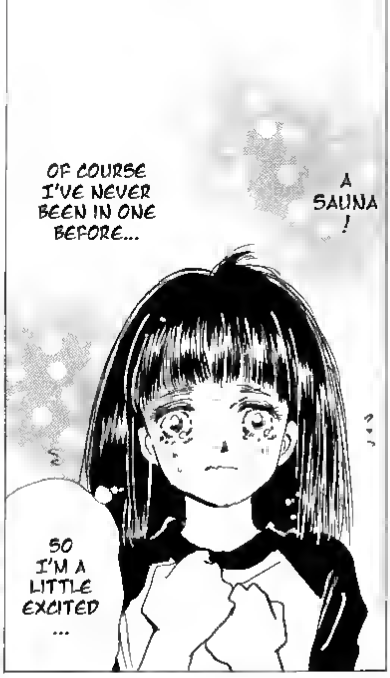

Splash
IS DEAD?
THAT I THINK YOUR LOVER, HANA...
SHAA

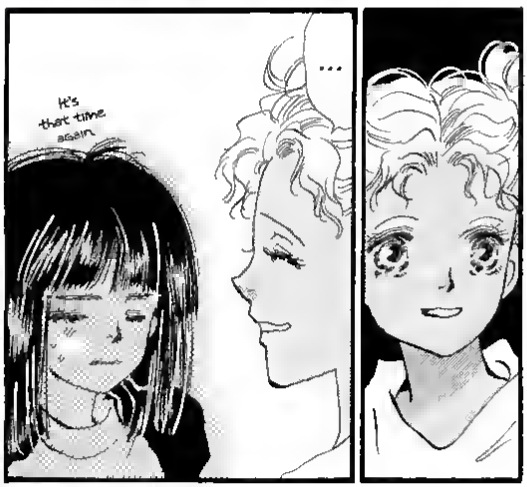
SHAA
THAT WE KILLED HER.
WHAT ?
DOES ...
YOUR HAND HURT ?
THUD

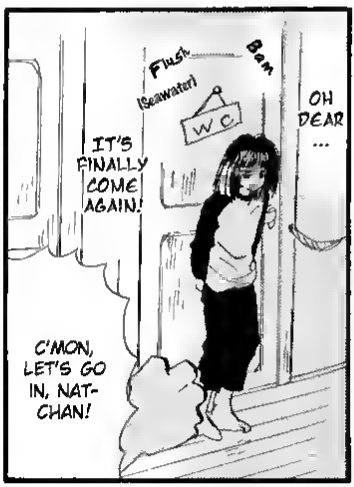
WELL THEN...
IF THAT'S THE CASE, THEN I'M GLAD.
TIME TO COLLECT SOME STONES FOR THE SAUNA.
...
NOT REALLY...
AS OF NOW, I CAN GO THROUGH THE DAY WITHOUT IT HURTING ONCE.
SOMETIMES ...
YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'RE IN A LOT OF PAIN.
YOU REALISE YOUR LIFE WAS JUST IN DANGER?
SHOULDN'T YOU CALL IT QUITS FOR TODAY?
SPLOOSH
ENJOY DIVING ...?
I'M SORRY ...
BUT I REALLY ENJOY DIVING ...
I'LL BE MORE CAREFUL THIS TIME.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
YOU ALMOST DROWNED! ARE YOU STUPID?

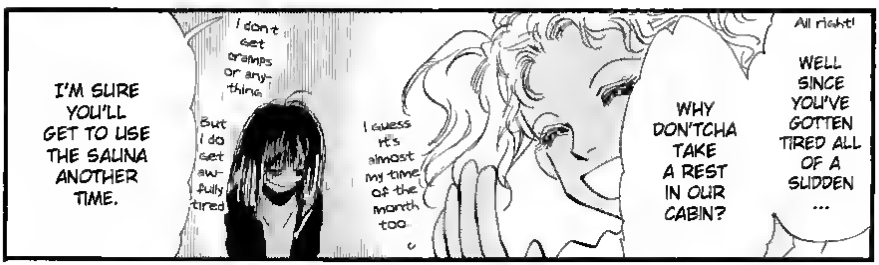
ALL RIGHTY THEN! IT'S SAUNA TIME!
FIRST WE'LL BAKE THE STONES IN THE OVEN.
WHO ARE THESE GUYS?
HOW HAVE THEY MANAGED TO SURVIVE THIS LONG ?
AND YET NO ONE SEEMS TO HAVE NOTICED ...
Chatter
Chatter
HA HA HA
THAT ARASHI ALMOST DROWNED.
AND WE'LL TOTALLY KEEP AN EYE ON THE VENTILATION TOO!
I just picked these up
GOT IT, MASTER !!
OHH, REALLY ?!
SOMETIMES THE HEAT CAN CAUSE THE STONES TO SHATTER.
BE CAREFUL.
ARE YOU SURE ...
YOU CAN BE CAREFUL, SEMIMARU?
MASTER ...?
What are you going to do if they get attached to you?


WHAT ?!
But I was the one who baked the stones!
THE GIRLS'LL GO FIRST, YEAH?
Well whatever
NATURAL -LY!
HUH?
OH...

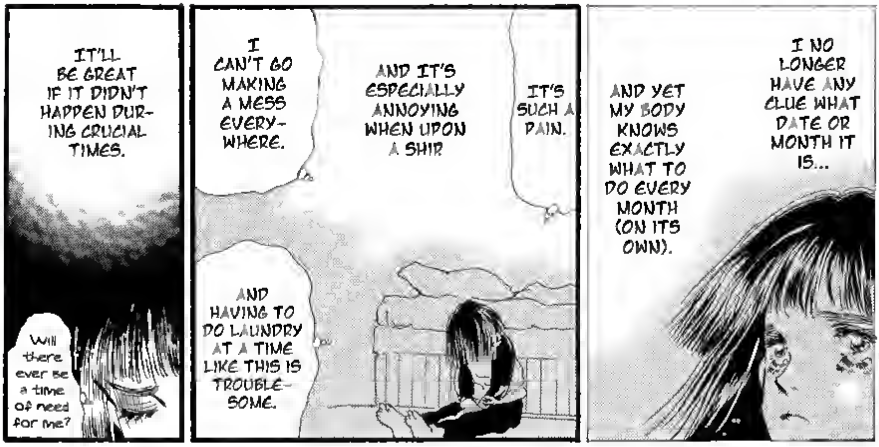

OF COURSE I'VE NEVER BEEN IN ONE BEFORE...
A SAUNA !
SO I'M A LITTLE EXCITED ...


...
It's that time again.


Fluh (Seawater)
Bam
WC
OH DEAR ...
IT'S FINALLY COME AGAIN!
C'MON, LET'S GO IN, NAT-CHAN!


I'M SURE YOU'LL GET TO USE THE SAUNA ANOTHER TIME.
I don't get cramps or anything
But I do get awfully tired
I guess it's almost my time of the month too
WHY DON'TCHA TAKE A REST IN OUR CABIN?
All right!
WELL SINCE YOU'VE GOTTEN TIRED ALL OF A SUDDEN ...

GET OUT, SEMI-MARU!
We've gotta be aroused so just a little will do
NOW TO POUR ON THE WATER ...
SHHH
Where did it disappear to?
HAS ANYONE SEEN THE DECK OF CARDS?
BEATS ME.
IT'S SMOKIN' HOT!
BAKED TO PERFECTION!
We really should rinse ourselves before going in, but that'll be a waste of water, huh?
TO HANG OUR CLOTHES ON.
I BROUGHT US SOME CHAIRS ...
Crack
Crack
LET'S LINE THEM UP ALONG THE CORRIDOR.
WHY NOW, OF ALL TIMES...?
Crunk
Shhh
HAA ...
Crunk
Crunk
AND I WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO TRYING OUT THE SAUNA TOO.
I'M TOO WORRIED TO LIE DOWN
SHHH
SHHH
YAAAAAH!!


IT'LL BE GREAT IF IT DIDN'T HAPPEN DURING CRUCIAL TIMES.
Will there ever be a time of need for me?
I CAN'T GO MAKING A MESS EVERYWHERE.
AND IT'S ESPECIALLY ANNOYING WHEN UPON A SHIP
IT'S SUCH A PAIN.
AND HAVING TO DO LAUNDRY AT A TIME LIKE THIS IS TROUBLESOME.
AND YET MY BODY KNOWS EXACTLY WHAT TO DO EVERY MONTH (ON ITS OWN).
I NO LONGER HAVE ANY CLUE WHAT DATE OR MONTH IT IS...

*NOTE: The Heian period runs from 794 to 1185 and the Edo period runs from 1603 to 1868

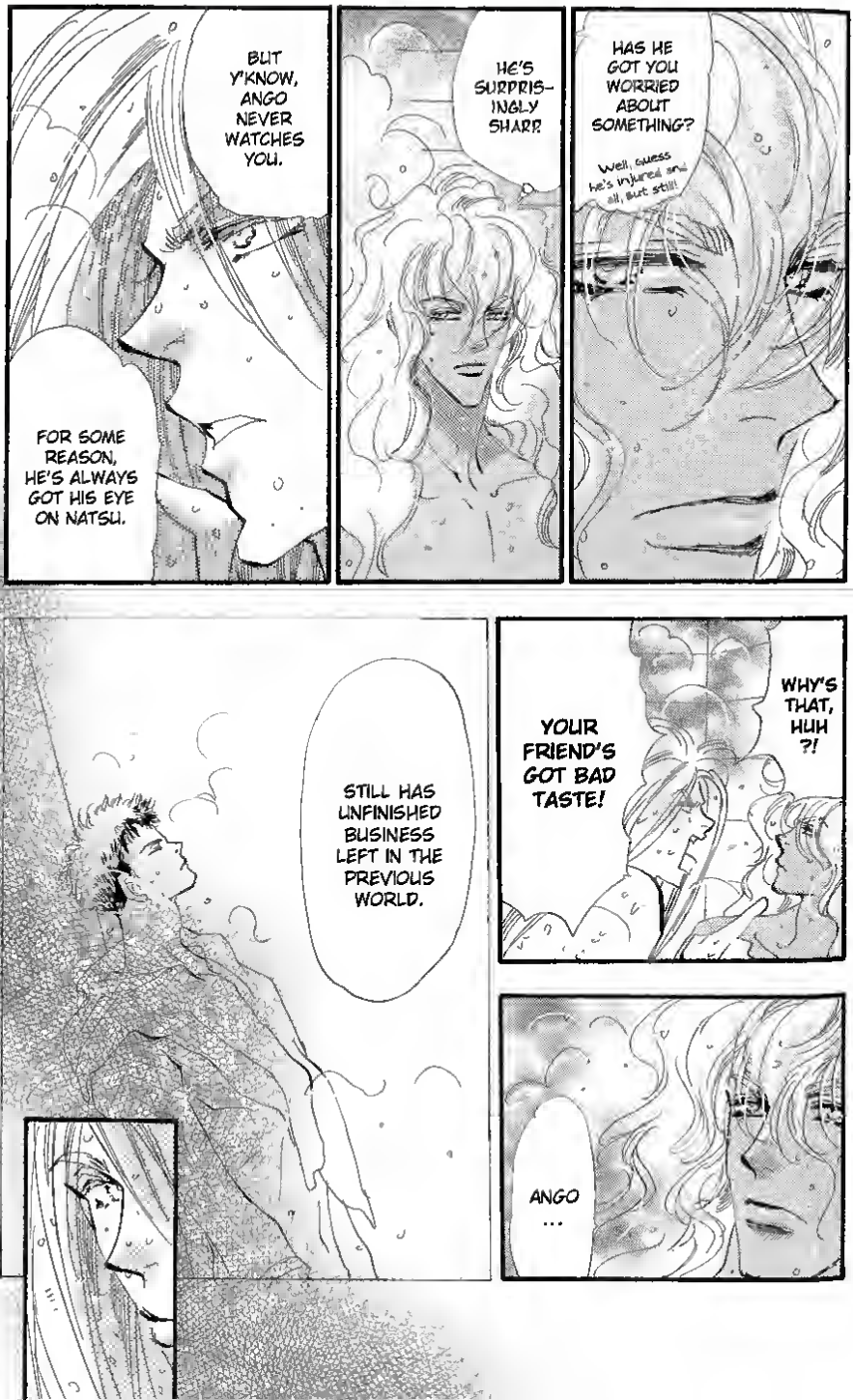
WHO GET THEIR PERIODS DURING AN ANTARCTIC EXPEDITION ...
I READ SOMEWHERE THAT WOMEN ...
Or was it arctic expedition?
ARE OFTEN ATTACKED BY ANIMALS DUE TO THE SMELL OF BLOOD
I WONDER IF THE SAME WILL HAPPEN HERE TOO ...

THERE WERE GUIDES AND MANUALS IN THE SUPPLIES SHELTERS...
BUT THERE WEREN'T ANY NOVELS ...
AND OF COURSE THERE WEREN'T ANY PICTURE BOOKS EITHER.
AHH, COME TO THINK OF IT ...
I HAVEN'T READ ANY BOOKS LATELY ...
I ALSO READ SOME-WHERE ...
THAT AT ONE POINT IN HISTORY, WOMEN STAYED INDOORS ..
DURING THAT TIME OF THE MONTH.
Nod Nod
THAT MEANS I'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO READ A MYSTERY NOVEL AGAIN...
Zzz...
WHAT ELSE WAS THERE...?
THE MURDER OF ROGER ACKROYD
THE TRAGEDY OF X...
THE GREENE MURDER CASE...
THE STRANGE TALE OF PANORAMA ISLAND ...
THE MURDERS AT THE TEN-CORNERED RESI-DENCE

*NOTE: All of the novels Natsu mentioned are murder mysteries. The *Murder of Roger Ackroyd* by Agatha Christie (1926). *The Tragedy of X* by Ellery Queen (1932). *The Greene Murder Case* by S. S. Van Dine (1928). *The Strange Tale of Panorama Island* by Edogawa Rampo (1926). *The Murders at the Ten-cornered Residence* by Ayatsuji Yukito (1991).

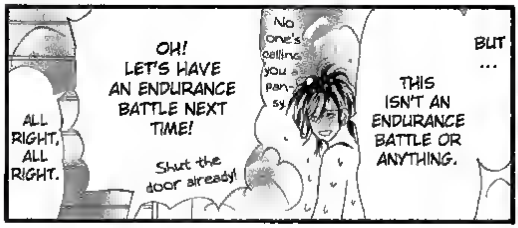
ARE YOU COMING TOO, MASTER?
ALL RIGHT!
NOW IT'S OUR TURN!
Bang
You were intending to go in too?
Well okay.
YOU GO FIRST.
It kinda stinks of women!
HOT!
HYAH!
HOOOT!
Clack
HUH ?
YOU LEAVING ALREADY ?
Master!
SWAA
Maybe mine's a bit bigger?
WELL, WELL!
THAT'S A DAMN FINE BOD YA GOT THERE, MASTER!

WHY DON'T YOU ...
BOTH GO IN TO-GETHER?
...
Damn I lost this time.
Bang
RIGHT.
IT'S YOUR TURN.
OHHHHH
I SEE!
YOUR ...
PHYSICAL CONDITION COULD RAPIDLY TAKE A TURN FOR THE WORSE IN SAUNAS.
ACCI-DENTS OFTEN OCCUR.
WHICH IS WHY AT LEAST ONE OF US NEEDS TO BE ABLE TO DEAL WITH THE SITUATION IF ANYTHING WERE TO HAPPEN.
Y'KNOW ...
Come to think of it
YOU'RE ALWAYS WATCHING ANGO, HUH?


BUT Y'KNOW, ANGO NEVER WATCHES YOU.
FOR SOME REASON, HE'S ALWAYS GOT HIS EYE ON NATSU.
HE'S SURPRISINGLY SHARP.
HAS HE GOT YOU WORRIED ABOUT SOMETHING?
Well, guess he's injured and all, but still!
STILL HAS UNFINISHED BUSINESS LEFT IN THE PREVIOUS WORLD.
YOUR FRIEND'S GOT BAD TASTE!
WHY'S THAT, HUH?!
ANGO...

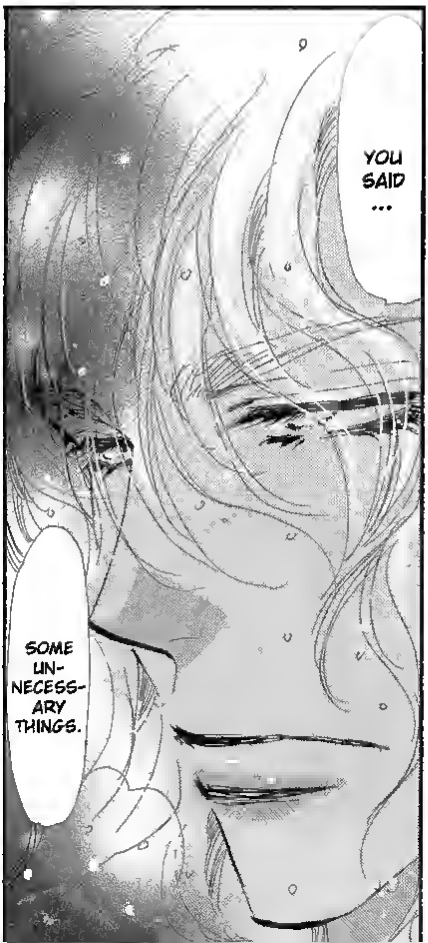
GUESS HE'S HAPPY THEN.
Though everyone's got a thing or two left undone!
JUST LEAVE HIM BE!
COS Y'KNOW ...
HUMANS ARE HAPPIEST WHEN THEY'VE GOT SOMETHING TO REGRET.

AH ...
I SORT OF UNDER-STAND THAT SENTIMENT.
ARA-SHI!
HOW CAN YOU GET IT?!
MR. HAPPY-GO-LUCKY!
WELL I PROBABLY GET IT...
OUU, THAT'S IT!
TIME TO GET OUT.
YOU GUYS ARE PATHETIC!
WHAT ABOUT YOU, SEMI-MARU ?


ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT.
OH! LET'S HAVE AN ENDURANCE BATTLE NEXT TIME!
Shut the door already!
No one's calling you a pansy.
BUT ...
THIS ISN'T AN ENDURANCE BATTLE OR ANYTHING.

I CAN STILL TAKE IT, MAN!
Hot, hot, hot!
I AIN'T NO BALLESS PANSY!

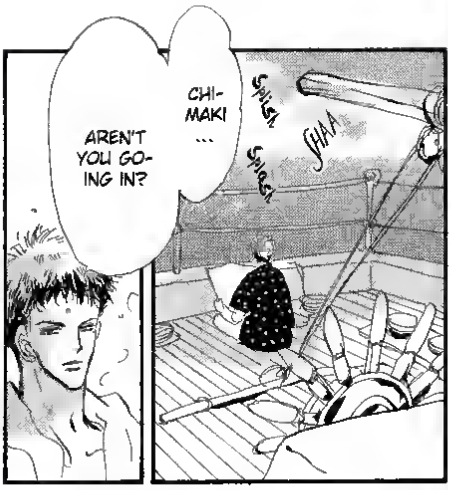
Well, let's go.
OCEAN ...
HERE I COME!
Hot hot!
BANG


YOU SAID ...
SOME UN-NECESS-ARY THINGS.

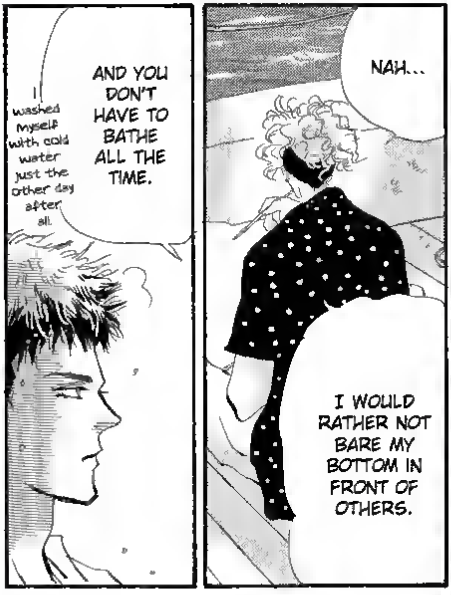
Exhale

Clatter

CLACK


AREN'T YOU GOING IN?
CHIMAKI ...
Splish
Splash
Shaa

INTO THE SAUNA?


I washed myself with cold water just the other day after all.
AND YOU DON'T HAVE TO BATHE ALL THE TIME.
NAH...
I WOULD RATHER NOT BARE MY BOTTOM IN FRONT OF OTHERS.

SHAAAA
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
SHAAAA
TIME IS A STRANGE CONCEPT.
You really should clean yourself instead
SHOULDN'T THERE BE MORE IMPORTANT THINGS TO DO WITH YOUR TIME?
...
DON'T YOU THINK YOU'RE WASTING YOUR TIME?
This sark has a pretty good feel to it
PAINTING.
I'm also testing out the red dye I made
IT SURPRISES ME.
BUT ONLY A FRACTION OF TIME HAS PASSED.
THEN THERE ARE TIMES WHEN I FEEL I'VE PAINTED A LOT ...
Splash
SHA
THERE ARE TIMES WHEN I COMPLETELY LOSE MYSELF IN IT AND IT FLIES BY IN AN INSTANT...

SO...
IF YOU THINK ABOUT ...
SAY YOU SPEND AN HOUR COMPLETELY ENGROSSED IN SOMETHING...
One Second
AND IF EVERY MINUTE OF THAT WAS USED TO ITS FULL POTENTIAL ...
AND EVEN EVERY SECOND IS REGARDED WITH THE UTMOST IMPORTANCE ...
THEN YOU'D FEEL LIKE NO TIME HAS PASSED AT ALL.
PEOPLE ...
ALWAYS SAY TIME IS LIMITED ...
BUT PERHAPS ...
TIME IS LIMITLESS.
I DON'T GET IT.
YEAH ...
I DON'T REALLY EITHER.
Shhh
Creak
CHIMAKI...
IF YOU'D BEEN A STUDENT AT OUR INSTITUTE ...
YOU WOULDN'T HAVE LASTED LONG BEFORE DROPPING OUT.

CLUNK
BANG
UH?
WELL, AT LEAST I GOT A DECENT DETOX.
Splat
Splat
My head's starting to spin.
GUESS THE GREAT SEMIMARU HAS HIS LIMIT TOO!
HMPH ...
Hot hot hot
Phew
QUIT MESSING AROUND!
ARASHI ?!
PUSH
PUSH
PUSH
Huh? But I don't remember this room having a lock.
HEY ...
IT WON'T OPEN!
BANG
BANG
BANG
BANG
SO THE DOOR'S BROKEN ?!
SOME-ONE, LEMME OUT!
NO WAY !
BANG
BANG
I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO'D PULL A PRANK LIKE THIS!
RATTLE
HOLD ON...
ARASHI AIN'T THE TYPE TO DO THIS SORTA THING.
OR NATSU ..
NOR WOULD NEE-SAN ...
CHIMAKI WOULDN'T EITHER ...
MA-TSURI ?
BANG
BANG
SOME-ONE'S BLOCK-ING THE DOOR, RIGHT?
CLUNK
CLUNK
OPEN UP!
HEY!

Crack
Crack
ALL I'VE GOT IS THIS PUNY VENT ...
Inhale
Exhale
Inhale
OH YEAH!
THERE'S A DOOR ON THE CEILING!
Lucky!♡
BANG
HEY!
BANG
WHAT THE?!
THIS WON'T OPEN EITHER ?!
NO WAY ...
ARE YOU KIDDING ?
Bang
Bang
Bang

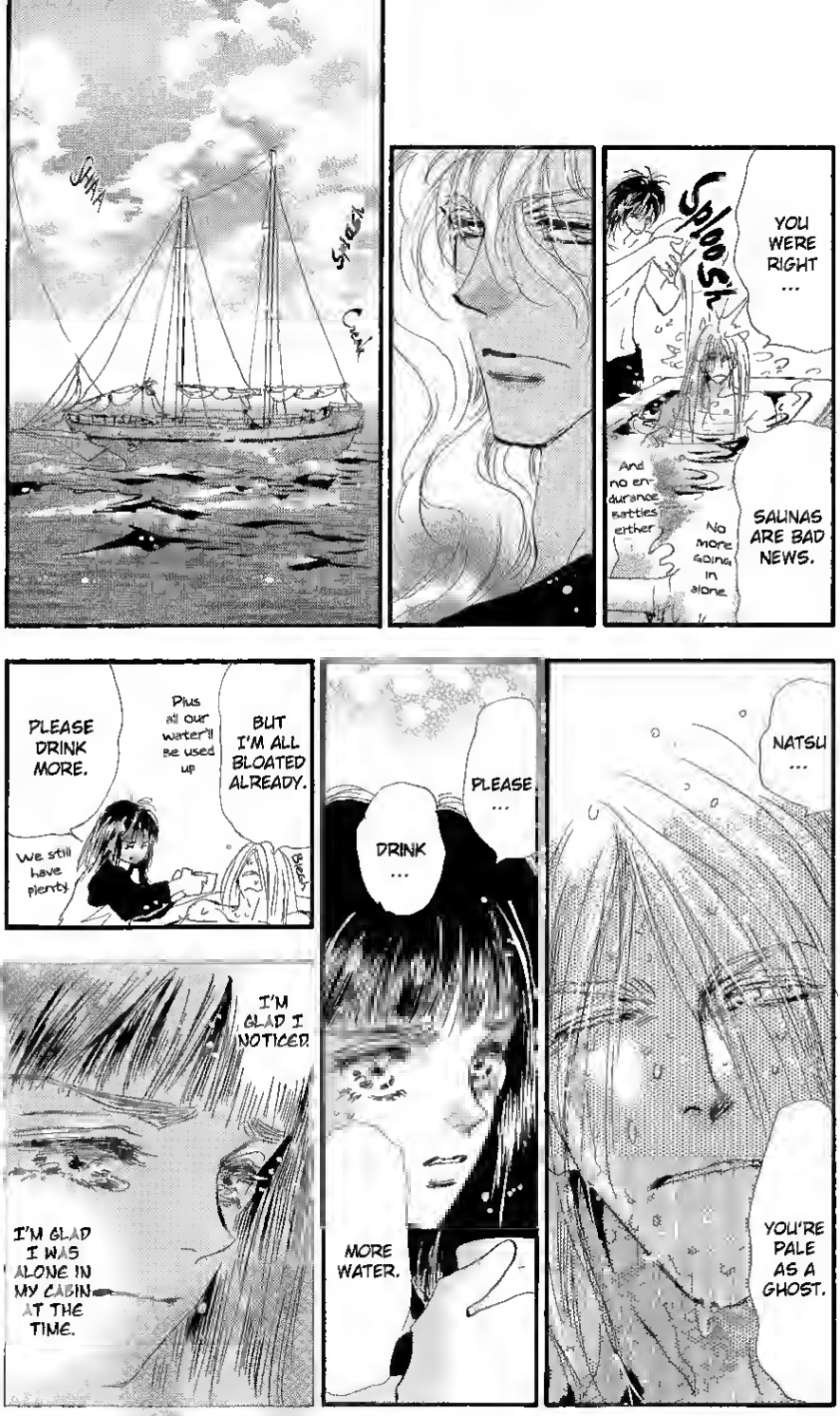
NATSU?
Splash Splash
KYA HA HA
Be careful
SOME-BODY!!
BANG
NO WAAAY !!
BANG
BANG
HELP ME!!
SO SHE'S RESTING IN THE CABIN.
NATSU'S NOT FEEL-ING SO GOOD...
HEY, WHERE'S NATSU?
Oh? He's wornout!
Yawn
OH, I FELL ASLEEP ...
Nnngh
HOW STRANGE ...
IF THIS WAS THE PAST...
My bum's sore now
I WOULD'VE FELT HELP-LESS AND LONELY AS SOON AS I WAS LEFT ALONE.
Bang
Bang
Bang
Bang

MAYBE I WAS DREAMING...
DID I IMAGINE IT?
PROBABLY.
IT'S DEAD SILENT TOO...
Is it okay?
HMM?
Come to think of it...
WASN'T SOMEONE BANGING ON THE DOOR JUST THEN?
BUT NOW...
I'M NOT REALLY WORRIED ABOUT BEING BY MYSELF ...
FIGURE IT OUT FOR YOURSELF!
BA-DUMP
Clack
I'LL JUST TAKE A LOOK ... I guess.
W...
WELL ...

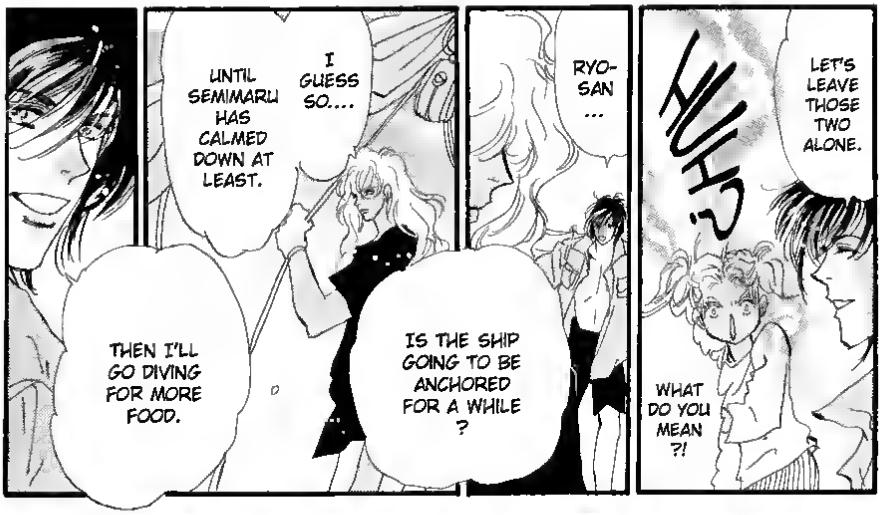
I HEARD YOU WERE FEELING UNWELL.
OH ...
YOU'RE ALL RIGHT?
DID YOU HEAR ANYONE BANGING ON A DOOR REALLY LOUD JUST THEN?
IT WASN'T ANYTHING WORTH WORRYING ABOUT!
AH...
NO ...
UM...
Oops
Woah!
ANY-ONE IN HERE?
IS ...
THERE ...
A CHAIR ...
HAS FALLEN OVER ..?
THE SAUNA DOOR ?!
EVERY-BODY HAS ALREADY LEFT THE SAUNA, RIGHT?
NO ONE'S HERE AFTER ALL.
NO...
Not really
Then
MAYBE IT'S JUST ME...
But, But
I'LL JUST MAKE SURE.

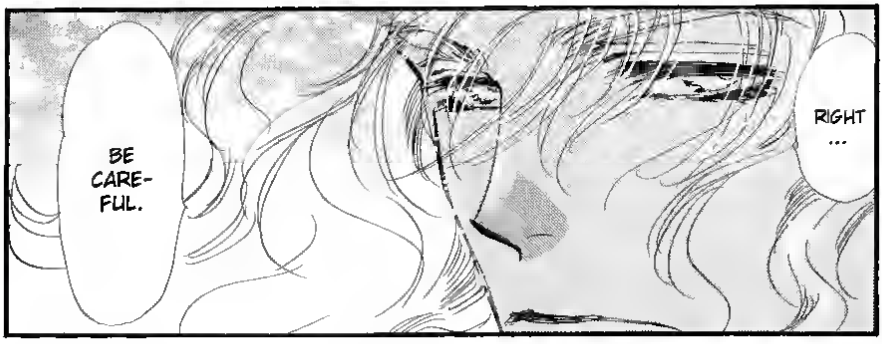
SEMI-MARU-SAN?!
RIGHT!
THAT'LL DO.
SPLOOSH
YOU COULD TOSS HIM INTO THE FISH TANK...
AND MAKE HIM DRINK PLENTY!
BRING DRINKABLE WATER,
HE NEEDS TO BE COOLED DOWN STAT!
I'M GOING TO DUNK HIM IN IT!
SEA-WATER WILL DO,
DRAW SOME WATER!!

Haa
Haa
Uhuh
Haa
Haa
Haa
UGH
...
HEY
...
RYO
...
I
THOUGHT
...
MY
HEART
...
WAS
GOING
...TO
STOP
...

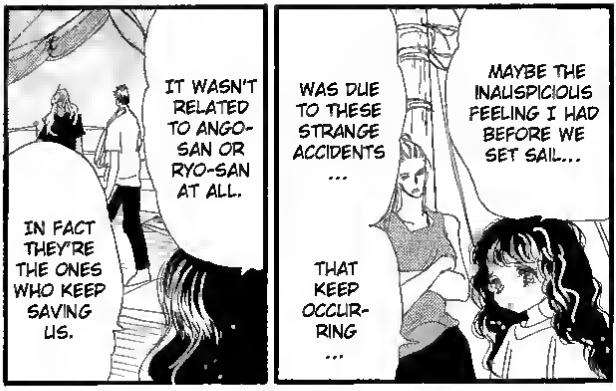

SWA
SMASH
Creak
Sploosh
YOU WERE RIGHT ...
SALINAS ARE BAD NEWS.
No more going in alone.
And no endurance battles either.
PLEASE DRINK MORE.
Plus all our water'll be used up
BUT I'M ALL BLOATED ALREADY.
We still have plenty.
Burp
I'M GLAD I NOTICED.
I'M GLAD I WAS ALONE IN MY CABIN AT THE TIME.
PLEASE ...
DRINK ...
MORE WATER.
NATSU ...
YOU'RE PALE AS A GHOST.

I... I...
I'M SO VERY GLAD ...
HE DIDN'T DIE.
I'M SO GLAD I NOTICED ...
I'M GLAD ANGO CAME TO CHECK ON ME.
AND DECIDED TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT.
HEH!
IT AIN'T NOTHING TO CRY ABOUT.
HEH HEH ...
MORON!
UGLY WENCH !!
SHA
Splash
Splash


LET'S LEAVE THOSE TWO ALONE.
HUH?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN ?!
RYO-SAN ...
IS THE SHIP GOING TO BE ANCHORED FOR A WHILE ?
I GUESS SO....
UNTIL SEMIMARU HAS CALMED DOWN AT LEAST.
THEN I'LL GO DIVING FOR MORE FOOD.


RIGHT ...
BE CARE-FUL.

I WON'T FORGET ABOUT MY KNIFE THIS TIME...

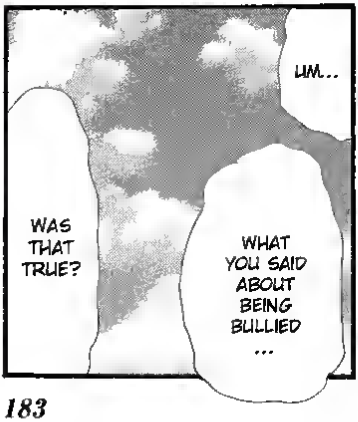

MAYBE THE INAUSPICIOUS FEELING I HAD BEFORE WE SET SAIL...
WAS DUE TO THESE STRANGE ACCIDENTS ...
THAT KEEP OCCURRING ...
IT WASN'T RELATED TO ANGO-SAN OR RYO-SAN AT ALL.
IN FACT THEY'RE THE ONES WHO KEEP SAVING US.

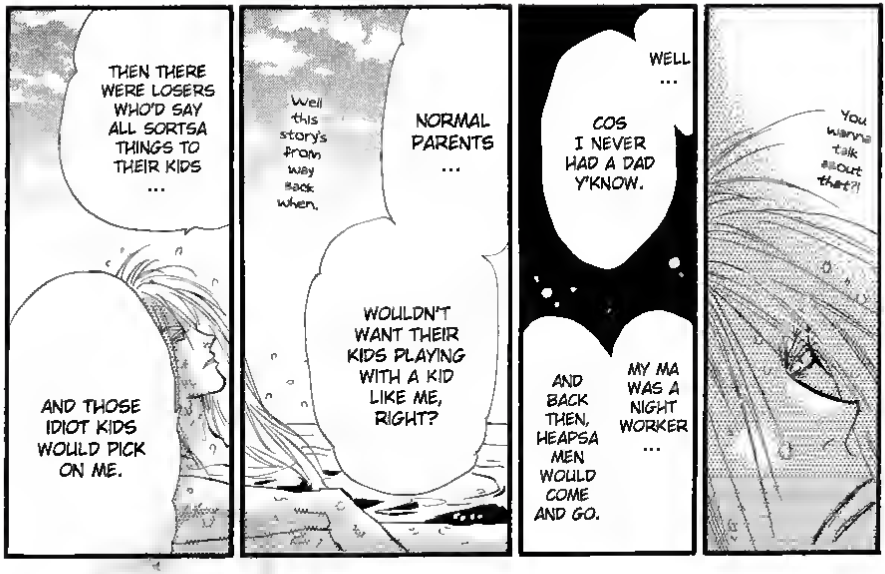
SPLASH

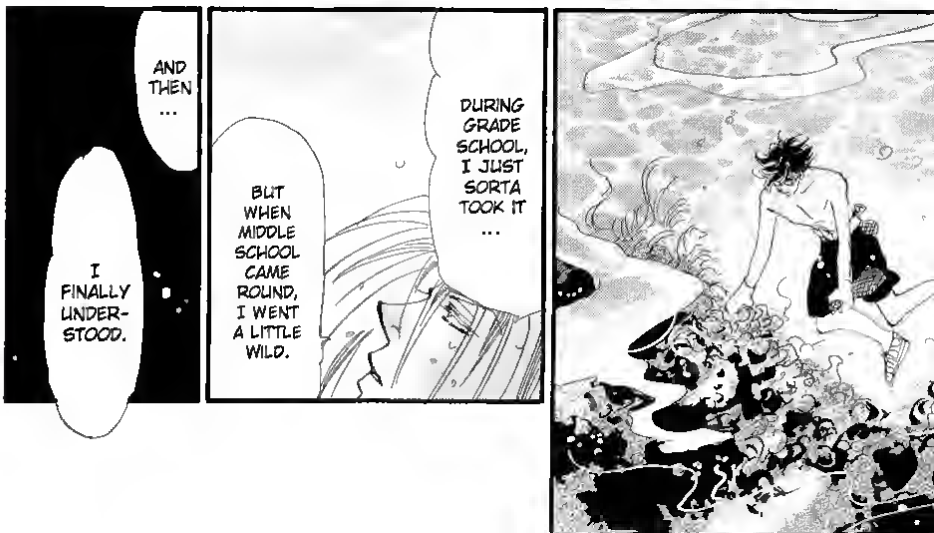
I SUPPOSE SO...

HEY ...
SAY SOMETHING!
I'M BORED.

SHAAA
SPLISH
SPLOSH
The shellfish are poking my arse.


UM...
WHAT YOU SAID ABOUT BEING BULLIED ...
WAS THAT TRUE?


THEN THERE WERE LOSERS WHO'D SAY ALL SORTSA THINGS TO THEIR KIDS ...
AND THOSE IDIOT KIDS WOULD PICK ON ME.
Well this story's from way back when.
NORMAL PARENTS ...
WOULDN'T WANT THEIR KIDS PLAYING WITH A KID LIKE ME, RIGHT?
WELL ...
COS I NEVER HAD A DAD Y'KNOW.
AND BACK THEN, HEAPSA MEN WOULD COME AND GO.
MY MA WAS A NIGHT WORKER ...
You wanna talk about that?!


AND THEN ...
I FINALLY UNDER-STOOD.
BUT WHEN MIDDLE SCHOOL CAME ROUND, I WENT A LITTLE WILD.
DURING GRADE SCHOOL, I JUST SORTA TOOK IT ...

I COULD JUST IGNORE THOSE BRATS.
THE WORLD'S A BIGGER PLACE AFTER ALL.
THERE WERE ...
NOT EVERY-ONE'S ...
A MORON.
GUYS OUT THERE JUST LIKE ARASHI TOO.
I GUESS THERE'RE BIGGER BULLIES OUT THERE TOO.
Splash
BUT ...
THOUGH ...
THERE ARE TWO TYPES...
LIKE THE GUYS WHO'LL NEVER BULLY BECAUSE THEY WERE BULLIED...
THE WIND HAS PICKED UP.
Splash
I don't wanna be told that by a hikikomori!
I don't think going wild is the solution either
SO WHY DO YOU BULLY OTHERS ...
WELL I HAVEN'T BEEN BULLYING YOU LATELY, RIGHT ?!
WHEN YOU WERE ONCE BULLIED YOURSELF?

*NOTE: A *hikikomori* was what Natsu once was, basically a recluse who has chosen to withdraw from society and secludes themselves in their room.

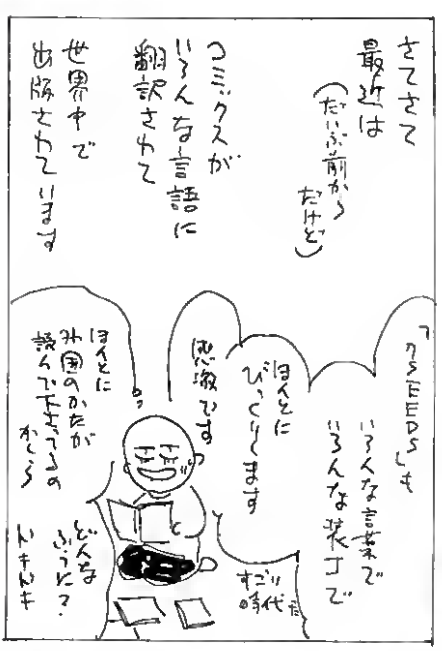
...AND THEN THERE'RE THOSE WHO AIN'T GOT A PROBLEM WITH IT EVEN THOUGH THEY WERE BULLIED.
EITHER WAY, THE PERSON THEMSELVES DON'T EVEN REALISE...
I said something pretty good just then!
WHICH WAY THEY'VE GONE.
LET'S OPEN THE SAILS.
IT'S TIME TO SET OFF.
Splash
WHERE IS IT?

SHAAA
Splish
HA-A
HA-A
SHAA
Splash
HA-A
WHERE'S THE SHIP ?!
THE SHIP ...
WHOOSH

〈7SEEDS〉⑰ * END *

おまけの たむたむたま

by 田村由美



なので
思います

もし これを
読んで下さった
異国のかたが
いらっしゃったら

ご自分の国なら
どうかなー って
考えていただけると
面白いかも♡

ご自分の国なら

どんなんが
りんに送ればわて
おこと歩くのか

何が残ってて
何が
なくなってるのか

せいぜい
想像してみて
下さい
(いや 楽しい話じゃ
なりんなけども)

日本は 島国なので
こんな ふうに なってますが

おとなりの国と
地続きのところだと
また違った感覚が
あるのだろと 思います

違う国の人と
ばったり会ったり
しちゃったら!

どうなるの

勝手に妄想するかたち

そんなふうに
いろいろな 読み方が
してもらえたらと
思っています

自分なら
誰を連れていきたいか
とか

何を持っていきたいか
とか

などと ふむふむ

いや 考えなくても いいです

ではでは

いつも本当に
ありがとう!!

お元気でー!!
がんばたり
休んだり

このみとも
どうぞよろしく
おねがいいたします

「とくしゅ
よろしく」

自分を大事に!
大事な人も大事に

見て下さい!

なるへく

7 SEEDS⑰

flowersフラワーコミックスα

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